Calgary metro

Your essential daily news | WEEKEND, APRIL 1-3, 2016 | High 19°C/Low 4°C Partly cloudy

GUESS WHO'S HERE

Alessia Cara surprises Lord Beaverbrook students with a performance — and a big gift

metroNEWS

Police dog bites child

ASPEN HILLS

Chief meets family, vows to help prevent future attacks

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

The Calgary Police Service (CPS) is investigating after a child was bitten by an off-duty police dog Wednesday evening.

Chief Roger Chaffin said an off-duty CPS canine-unit officer and a service dog named Marco were in the fenced backyard of their home in Aspen Hills at 6 p.m. Wednesday.

The dog broke out of the yard and went onto the street in front of the house, where it encountered three children playing.

A 12-year-old boy ran away from the dog, and the animal chased him into his nearby home and bit him, causing puncture wounds to his leg.

The boy's father, who was in the home, attempted to get the dog off just as the canine handler ran in to assist. The handler secured the dog back at his home and returned to help provide first aid to the child. The boy was transported to hospital, where he was treated and released.

"I met with the family earlier today to express our sincere apologies in person and offer any support the service can to deal with what must have been a terrifying incident," Chaffin said. "I want everyone to know I'll be doing everything possible to make sure an incident of this nature doesn't happen again."

Chaffin said Marco is a three-year-old Belgium Malinois who had been serving CPS for roughly a year. He said it's too soon to tell what will happen with Marco but said that in the past dogs found unsuitable for the canine unit have gone on to successful careers elsewhere.

Foundation
LOTTERY

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A JACKPOT OF UP TO $1 MILLION WILL BE DRAWN ON APRIL 5, 2016

metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Nintendo launches long-overdue foray into mobile with Miitomo. **Business**

Bike counter quashed

TRANSPORTATION

Auto tracking system won't be installed on Northland Dr.

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

Instead of counting sheep, one Calgary city councillor is counting bikes — and he wants the city to do the same.

Coun. Sean Chu has demanded an automated counter to keep track of the Northland Drive cycle track after several complaints to his office, some too choice for the newspaper, but most highlighting it was a waste of money.

"We need transparency and accountability," Chu said. "People are telling me there's nobody there, people live around there, work around there, they say the same thing."

Chu, the councillor for Ward 4, said he sees maybe four or five people riding on Northland Drive a year, and half of those are on the sidewalk. He sees more vehicles driving than bicycles.

"I have to speak up when something doesn't make sense," Chu said.

Agustin Louro, president of Bike Calgary, said from their perspective transparency is important.

"We recognize some routes are used more than others, just like it is the case for roads where cars drive and sidewalks," Louro said. "People who use the bike route on Northland Drive like it a lot, they like it because it makes them feel comfortable, it makes them feel safe."

A cyclist speeds by on the Northland drive cycle track in Calgary. Coun. Sean Chu says automated bike counters are needed along Northland Drive to ensure the number of cyclists using the stretch justifies its existence. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

The painted bike lanes were put in about four years ago and buffered sections were then added in 2014 for a cost of $575,000. The city is now in the process of monitoring the lanes, but aren't planning on adding the automated counters you would see in the core.

Tom Thivener, projects coordinator for the Liveable Streets Division at the city, said that's because it wouldn't be fair to monitor volumes on Northland Drive as it's just the beginning of a network.

> **You can take the train for part of your trip and hop on your bike.**
> Tom Thivener

"We're starting to provide that network, few people know, but it's actually only a 10 minute bike ride from Northland Mall down to Brentwood Station," Thivener said.

Currently the city has 17 automated counters, mostly helping them monitor the downtown cycle track pilot, but at $7,000 a pop, they don't just have the luxury of putting them anywhere.

Chu said the counters not being there is evidence of the city building infrastructure based on hope and not evidence.

The number of cyclists isn't the only reason to add to cycle track infrastructure. For the city, these stats are actually secondary to offering people choice along with pedestrian and cyclist safety.

"From a pedestrian point of view it's a much better project because we've narrowed things down substantially," Thivener said. "We had an overbuilt roadway for what its current use is. Before we even touched it with the bike project we saw the car volumes plummet from 23,000 cars a day to only 13,000 a day."

Those numbers were after improvements on Shaganappi, Crowchild and thanks to the expansion on the LRT in the NW.

GENDER POLICY

Lethbridge schools fall short

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

As the March 31 deadline passed, Education Minister David Eggen said he had received 60 gender policies from the province's 61 school boards in Alberta.

Eggen also added 81 private schools and 13 charter schools have also submitted policies.

"No jurisdiction across the province has said that they will not submit, so in general, I'm pretty pleased," he said. The only public school board yet to submit a policy is Lethbridge School District.

When asked what the consequences would be for policies that aren't submitted, or that don't follow the government's guidelines as closely as he would like, Eggen said they would continue to work with individual boards.

"On this day, I would like to acknowledge that all Catholic school boards in the province have submitted policies," he said.

"People are submitting these in a package with regulation, so I have to look at the sum total of what they submit for me."

He acknowledged there are sensitivities around religion that have to be balanced with human rights, but said human rights wouldn't be compromised.

Eggen said through April the government will be looking at each policy to make sure they are in compliance with legislation and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Warm weather, fewer craters

INFRASTRUCTURE

Repair crews have worked throughout winter months

Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

As someone who has a fleet of cars on the road all hours of the day, Roger Richard thinks Calgary's got it pretty good when it comes to potholes.

The owner of Associated Cabs said he's seen pothole crews out and about, and he really can't complain about the state of the roads this spring.

"You would get the odd small one here or there. But there's no real bad ones where it demolishes our car," said Richard.

Compared with the state of the roads he's seen in eastern Canadian cities, he thinks we've got it downright good.

"At least the car doesn't disappear in the pothole," he said with a laugh. "The car has a chance to survive."

Although the city can't take credit for the warm weather this winter (and last winter too), it does get points for using that advantage to get ahead in the war on potholes.

Potholes like this one on 3 Avenue NE are becoming an endangered species thanks to a warm dry winter. Road crews are hunting them down and filling them in. KENNETH APPLEBY / FOR METRO

Brittany Kustra, communication adviser for the city's roads department, said they are definitely seeing fewer potholes with the warmer weather.

With that, they've been able to catch up and get ahead.

"Some of the potholes we filled this year likely include small potholes that weren't high-priority last year, but crews have had time to fix this year due to fewer new potholes developing," she said.

What's more, the city has been able to work straight through the winter because conditions have been warm and — more importantly — dry.

> **"We're ahead of schedule and we're in good shape for potholes.**
> Brittany Kustra

"From October to April — we're not always consistent with pothole repair whereas this year we have been," said Kustra.

She noted that although the price of oil has dropped, that hasn't had much of an affect on the price of asphalt.

She said after speaking with roads managers, she's found there aren't any particular communities that have it worse than others.

"Based on where the sun is and microclimates — there can be very minor differences in the freeze thaw cycle but overall we're seeing it pretty consistent all across the city," she said.

If you do see a pothole on your street, the city wants you to report it through the 311 system.

"We're ahead of schedule and we're in good shape for potholes so we're looking forward to having the roads in good shape all throughout spring and summer," said Kustra.

1,302.62 ▸ Tonnes of asphalt used on potholes between Oct. 15, 2015 and March 28, 2016.

13,026 ▸ Approximate number of potholes filled in the same time frame.

With face-to-face open houses nixed for now, Calgary's new portal is a place to express your ideas and concerns.
HELEN PIKE/METRO

Have your say online

DEMOCRACY

New city portal welcomes public input

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

Pick a screen name, type, avoid potty language and hit send — now that's public engagement.

After Mayor Naheed Nenshi pulled the plug on any face-to-face open-house meetings, the city's Engage portal popped up just in time to pick up the pieces and give residents and groups such as Ready to Engage a place to harp on projects such as the Southwest BRT.

The forum, which is monitored 24/7, is just a week old but already picking up steam and hot topics — with thousands of unique viewers flocking to the site and hundreds typing up feedback for the city to post online and share with the world.

"It's actually had pretty good uptake," said manager of public engagement Noreen Rude.

"It provides opportunity for more people to partake."

Rude said that, in general, you can get anywhere from 10 to 500 people or more at open houses, depending on the topic and its impact.

"I'd say the good general rule of thumb is pretty close to tenfold, what you'll get online over what you would ever get in person" Rude said.

She added the city has had feedback from citizens saying they want to have public engagement at choice times, but if you can't please everyone face-to-face, those who can't take the time out of their days can put in time in front of a screen.

So far the city isn't tracking positive and negative comments, but a full report will be brought to city council April 20.

"In that report back, we would be measuring the sentiment based on those comments and the process that's there," Rude said.

4,403

The number of unique visitors to the calgary.ca/engage page.

Meanwhile, there have been **649 submissions**, not including the comments made by the city.

> **It's actually had pretty good uptake.** It provides opportunity for more people to partake.
> Noreen Rude,
> Calgary's manager of public engagement

ECONOMY

Worker wage freeze a 'scapegoat': Union

Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

Freezing unionized public employee wages won't fix the government's financial mess, according to the vice-president of Alberta's largest union.

Amid the government's plans to freeze the salaries of non-unionized public employees, some have called on the government to go a step further and freeze unionized workers' wages.

The Alberta Union of Provincial Employees — which has entered negotiations with the government — can't say if it's open to the idea of wage freezes, but one of its top executives thinks the idea acts a "scapegoat" and a distraction from real issues.

In a letter to Metro, Susan Slade, vice-president of AUPE, said many public-sector employees have had their wages frozen multiple times over the last five years, adding staff levels are falling behind population growth.

"These workers are already struggling with the effects of inflation, economic downturn and short-staffing at work," she said. "They're not responsible for decades of bad decisions, poor fiscal planning and lack of foresight by generations of government politicians."

According to AUPE data, Slade noted, average salaries for its union members were $56,750 for direct government employees, $42,275 in the boards and agencies sector, $41,853 in education and $30,877 at Alberta Health Services.

"Wages for front-line staff at government-funded agencies are far from exorbitant," Slade said.

Mark Ramsankar, president of the Alberta Teachers Association — which is also in preliminary discussions — said it's too early to discuss compensation, adding the working conditions for teachers are most important.

Calgary is getting all that dirt and grime out of the way for summer. KENNETH APPLEBY/FOR METRO

Street sweeping gets spruced up

SPRINGTIME

Higher fines, wider bans to ensure better, cheaper clean

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

Move your car so the city can sweep the street.

That's the main message coming out of this year's enhanced street-sweeping program.

Among the changes, residents can expect crews sweeping seven days a week, tickets for those parked during a sweep as well as impounded or towed cars for sitting tight when there's a no-parking sign.

"Move your vehicle, don't litter and move all waste and recycling bins off the road," said roads spokeswoman Brittany Kustra. "If you're parking in an area where there's sweeping taking place, and there's community signs out, you are at risk of receiving a ticket, which is a new initiative for the street sweeping program this year."

In past years the city has had voluntary street-parking compliance for communities and mandatory compliance on major thoroughfares, but that often resulted in some areas not getting the proper sweep.

$120
New cost of tickets for parking during a street sweep, up from $50

This year tickets have gone up from $50 to $120. The fines were passed last June when it was discovered that the program wasn't covering the cost of towing.

"We've had some problems with compliance in the past and we're looking at a cost-recovery model," said Coun. Andre Chabot. "The fine increases are just to ensure we operate revenue neutral. This is not going to make money for the city."

Chabot's ward has some repeat-offender neighbourhoods. He said Albert Park has mulled the nickname Albert Parking Lot for their vehicle woes.

Last year the city's spring street-sweep program scoured around 14,600 kilometres of roadways for gravel and dirt. Of that, only 1,300 kilometres had parking bans. That's expected to change this year, with many communities now included in the mandatory bans.

"This gives us the opportunity to do the tow, even if it's a block away," Chabot said. "It's going to be a way better service."

Street cleaning is indicated by signs that show the dates and times crews will be present. There will also be no-parking signs that are smaller on specific blocks and streets.

Calgary

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2016-0707

Employee should be fired: Woman

SOCIAL MEDIA

Says Facebook post racist, but AHS says it's addressed issue

Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

Though Alberta Health Services has addressed a contentious Facebook post made by one of its employees, Kristen First Rider thinks the health authority should terminate the employee over what Rider calls a racist comment.

Earlier this week, Christina Lee — a health care aide based in Innisfail, according to her Facebook account — referred to indigenous people as 'animals' via her comment on a news article.

"Quit living like animals…," her comment read. "Why should we be giving these (people) more $$ for housing and schools … we have thousands of veterans, elderly and homeless that would at least benefit from this money."

Numerous Facebook users, like First Rider, were outraged.

First Rider said Lee's comments are especially hurtful, given her role to provide health care to all Albertans.

"I was hurt when I saw the post. It made me sad to think someone could be so hateful," she said.

AHS said it's addressed Lee's post internally, but won't provide details given it's a human resources issue.

Melanie Peacock, Associate Professor at the Bissett School of Business with Mount Royal University, said employers need social media policies but also be clear about its social media expectations.

"Even while you're not at work, you're deemed within reason to be representing your employer," she said. "And that standard is higher when you move up in the organization."

Christina Lee made distasteful comments (shown above) about indigenous people on Facebook. SCREEN GRAB

Belt-tightening times have forced the cancellation of FirstEnergy Capital FirstRowdy bash, one of the city's biggest opening Calgary Stampede parties. METRO FILE

OIL DOLDRUMS

Economic woes kill Stampede bash

One of the biggest events on the Calgary Stampede's party circuit has been called off as the city contends with the worst economic downturn in decades.

For the first time in 20 years, boutique investment dealer FirstEnergy Capital won't be holding its annual FirstRowdy bash this July.

In past years, the event has had a price tag of more than $400,000, attracted up to 1,600 guests and featured big-name acts like Bachman-Turner Overdrive and the Barenaked Ladies.

The cost of entry for invited guests was a charitable donation. FirstRowdy has raised more than $3 million for 50 different charities since it started.

FirstEnergy executive chairman Jim Davidson said the decision to call off FirstRowdy was made "after quite a bit of soul-searching."

"We thought it was appropriate in light of the investment climate and the difficult times that we're going through that we cancel it."

Instead, FirstEnergy will donate a total of $100,000 to four charities, with a focus on helping people in need as a result of the downturn.

Stampede-week parties are often viewed as a barometer of the economic climate in Calgary, with hosts spending big when times are good and pulling back when they're not.

Even though the crude downturn was in full swing during last year's Stampede, FirstEnergy decided to go ahead with FirstRowdy 2015 after some debate. Its slogan: "Party like it's 2014!"

But 2016 is a different story.

"The environment is much worse now," said Davidson. "This is much deeper and much broader than anyone had anticipated."

Even though FirstRowdy is a no-go this year — and its prospects of being revived in 2017 are uncertain — Davidson said FirstEnergy's focus on charitable giving hasn't wavered.

"We will continue to do our part in other ways."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Locals line up for new Tesla

TECHNOLOGY

Calgarians go on wait list for electric car

Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

More and more Calgarians are charged up about the idea of electric cars.

Daljinder Johal likes the idea so much, he placed down payments on two Tesla Model 3 cars on Thursday morning at the Chinook Mall dealership.

He said he currently drives a Nissan Pathfinder but likes the idea of zipping past the gas station.

"It seems to be more economical on fuel," said Johal. "For our family, it's a good car."

Tesla's Model 3 was set to be unveiled Thursday night, but the company started taking down payments in the morning.

At $35,000 US, the Model 3 is meant to help the company reach the average car buyer. Drivers will pay a bit more in Canada, but it brings Tesla out of the niche market and into the range of high-end family cars.

That's probably why dozens of Calgarians were lined up at the Tesla shop on Thursday morning to get their name on the list.

Ekke Kok said he's convinced that electric cars will be the way of the future.

"I took a Model S for a test drive a few months ago and I was smitten," he said.

He took a day off work to make a down payment and get on the list.

The cars won't be available until late 2017 or early 2018, so those higher up on the list will take delivery first.

Ismael Remos takes a look at the Tesla Model S in the company's Chinook Mall outlet after he placed a down payment on the Model 3 on Thursday morning. BRODIE THOMAS/METRO

IN BRIEF

Two face charges in road-rage incident

A 26-year-old man and a youth face several charges after an incident in late February. At that time two males driving a grey Kia waved what appeared to be firearm at another driver in Red Deer. They were intercepted by RCMP, who seized a replica BB gun. Jeremy Wayne White of Innisfail is charged with uttering threats, possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose and assault with a weapon. The male youth, who can't be named, is facing the same charges. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cyclist suffers head injury

A woman in her 50s was taken to hospital in life-threatening condition, suffering from head injuries after falling from her bicycle in North Glenmore Park. Calgary EMS responded to the call around 2:50 p.m. on Thursday. Paramedics met bystanders at the parking lot near 37th Street S.W., and they led them to the injured woman. She was wearing a helmet at the time. METRO

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A handful of volunteers, including co-founder Saima Jamal, pose at the current SRSG headquarters. CONTRIBUTED

Refugee group needs home

COMMUNITY

Temporary donation centre set to close April 15

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

What started as strangers looking to help a Syrian refugee family struggling to settle has turned into the city's biggest citizen-led refugee support and volunteer group: the Syrian Refugee Support Group Calgary.

Back in December the group, which started out as only a few people, was donated a warehouse space in the city's northeast as a place to collect donations to give to newcomer families. But on April 15, the group will have to give up their space — essentially leaving them homeless.

"It's been so amazing having the warehouse as a hub, a place to not only pick up the things they need, but also to make friends and build a community," said SRSG co-founder Saima Jamal.

Last month Metro reported on how the group was looking for a new space to be donated so it could continue to have a meeting place, but Jamal said the search has been unsuccessful thus far.

"We're still looking," she said. "Ideally for in the northeast because that's where most of the refugees are. We're hopeful something will happen."

Jamal said watching the warehouse transform from a concrete room to a bustling epicentre for relationships to be forged and cultural exchanges to take place has been amazing.

She said the hundreds of volunteers and refugees who have passed through the doors have all made it the special place they love.

Jamal said she hopes time off will give the tireless volunteers some well-deserved rest, and also push the refugees to become more independent, but she hopes the SRSG can find a new place to congregate and offer support in the near future.

To contact the SRSG visit www.yycsyr.ca.

"It's been amazing having the warehouse as a hub, a place not only to pick up things ... but to make friends."
Saima Jamal

HEALTH

Experienced midwives feeling shut out

Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

Midwives who plan to close shop are feeling a bit cheated, as some of their colleagues received enough funds to hire more of the in-demand childbirth workers.

Earlier this month, three midwifery practices specializing in vulnerable and rural populations announced they're closing due to how Alberta Health Services (AHS) decided to divvy out funds.

It will leave many experienced midwives out of work, but, due to Alberta Health Service's funding model, some Alberta practices in Calgary and Red Deer are hiring.

There's a catch: It appears the hiring practices can only employ new grads or foreigners, not experienced midwives who will soon be unemployed.

Nicole Matheson, president of the Alberta Association of Midwives (AAM), said she blames the funding model for the midwifery hiring loophole.

She said many midwives left practices to start their own under an AHS directive to open clinics for the province's rural and vulnerable populations.

The older practices received the same amount they got last year, despite the fact that they had fewer midwives working for them. The new practices got what was left over — not enough to keep them afloat.

"That gives the old practices the ability to hire new midwives, while the midwives who moved don't have work," Matheson explained. "That's why we're pushing so hard to change the funding model, so that we can make a system that's not so broken."

Health Minister Sarah Hoffman has indicated the government will increase midwifery funding come April, when it announces its budget.

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‘Bike Lady’ bringing wheels of joy to Syrian refugees

CHARITY

Gina Eaton has donated around 100 bikes, helmets

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

Gina Eaton, left, has a bike rack full of donated bikes she’ll fix up and distribute to Syrian refugees and their children, such as those pictured right. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO, CONTRIBUTED

They call her the Bike Lady, and it’s a well-deserved nickname.

Over the last few months Gina Eaton has become well known at the Syrian Refugee Support Group (SRSG) Calgary’s warehouse for making wishes — of bikes — come true.

“Gina is an awesome person who goes out of her way to bring joy and happiness to the Syrian refugees, especially the children, by providing them with bikes and helmets,” said SRSG volunteer Basma Essa.

Eaton said it makes her feel amazing to be able to support the refugees in a way that not only brings them joy, but helps make their lives easier. She said she’s fallen in love with all those she’s met through her work.

“For them the bike isn’t just a toy, it’s often their mode of transportation, how they get groceries and how they get around town,” she said. “I just love these people so much — they inspire me.”

Eaton said what keeps her collecting bikes to donate to refugees is the personal stories they’ve shared with her.

“What they’ve been through is unimaginable,” she said. “Everyone knows that you don’t let your kids swim from Turkey unless what’s in front of them is better than what’s behind them.”

According to Eaton, she wouldn’t be able to do it without the help of her good-hearted and philanthropic friends.

“I am so lucky to have such generous friends and for them to continue to share with their friends so we can collect more and more bikes,” she said.

Essa said what Eaton and her network is doing is truly appreciated.

“She has an amazing heart and works tirelessly with her set of volunteer friends helping with collecting and fixing the bikes. We really appreciate what she is doing: bringing smiles to many faces.”

Eaton said her goal is “1000 like for 1000 bikes,” meaning she hopes to generate 1000 likes to the SRSG Facebook page and in turn be able to collect 1000 donated bikes and helmets.

As of now she has been able to distribute around 100 bikes.

If you are able to donate a bike to the cause Eaton said not to worry if the bike needs fixing, as she has partnered up with savvy bike techs who are willing to fix them up.

> “For (refugees) the bike isn’t just a toy, it’s often their mode of transportation, how they get groceries and how they get around town. Gina Eaton

Old tech gifted new life

COMMUNITY

Program gives refurbished computers to those in need

Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

Zacharey Melin grins like any 11-year-old would with a new computer all his own.

The Cochrane resident received the computer through the Computers for Low Income Calgarians program (CLIC) in early March.

Zacharey lost much of his right index finger when he was six.

"He has a really hard time holding a pencil," said his mom, Jocelyn Melin. "Writing has always been a struggle for him."

She said the teachers have created a computer-based program for him, but as a single mom she couldn't afford a new computer.

Eleven-year-old Zacharey Melin holds his new-used laptop at CLIC HQ. KENNETH APPLEBY/FOR METRO

"The computers at school, I can't always get stuff done. So if I didn't have a computer, I couldn't do homework," said Zacharey.

Sunez Sudhakar has been volunteering with CLIC for seven years, and he puts in two days per week on the administrative side of the operations.

He said the demand is always greater than supply. The wait list is currently around 190 people, but more apply each week.

Sudhakar said no part of a donated computer goes to waste. If they can't refurbish a computer, they cannibalize it for parts, or e-cycle what's left.

Anyone donating their computer can be assured that the hard drive will be wiped clean before it is given to someone new. Sudhakar said they use the same program as CPS, and can provide a certificate that the hard drive has been erased.

CLIC is the only program in Calgary that gives the computers away free of charge with no strings attached, according to Sudhakar.

While many have old computers collecting dust in the basement, Jocelyn hopes more people will donate them so others like her son can get use out of them again.

"That fact that he got this, it's going to be like night and day for him at school," said Jocelyn.

"We are so thankful."

> **"It's going to be like night and day for him at school.**
> Jocelyn Melin

EMERGENCY

Man suffers serious head injury in fall from scaffold

A man has suffered a potentially life-threatening head injury after falling from scaffolding in Mountain View County.

At 2:52 p.m. on Thursday, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) responded to a property adjacent to Range Road 44, south of Township Road 292, Mountain View County.

Paramedics found an adult male, believed to be in his 50s, who had fallen an estimated two to three meters from scaffolding, before landing on concrete.

Ground paramedics assessed, stabilized and treated the victim at the scene.

The man was subsequently flown to the Foothills Medical Centre by STARS Air Ambulance.

His condition is considered serious.

EMS is unaware at this time as to what may have preceded the fall.

METRO

OIL AND GAS

Industry lauds energy regulator savings

The Alberta Energy Regulator says it has saved industry hundreds of millions of dollars in recent years through a host of process tweaks and efficiency measures, more than offsetting levies companies pay to fund the provincial watchdog.

AER spokeswoman Carrie Rosa said the cost-saving tally for industry over the 2015-16 fiscal year came in at between $411 million and $448 million, exceeding its target of $400 million. In the previous year, the savings were $267 million, surpassing a $60-million target.

Those figures were verified by the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers.

In 2014, the industry levy was $243 million. Last year it fell to $240 million in response to the downturn and Rosa said it's expected to be reduced even further this year.

Many of the savings have been achieved through the AER's "near-term action program," which launched in 2014 in an effort to make the regulator more efficient through initiatives that can deliver results quickly.

The most beneficial changes to industry have centred on highly technical matters that CAPP vice-president Brad Herald admits are "not very sexy" but add up to big savings.

"We pivoted from a growth picture to more of a cost-savings picture and these are really meaningful at times like this and the work's appreciated," he said.

A briefing note prepared by the AER for the office of Alberta's deputy energy minister said $356 million to $379 million was expected to have been saved by March 31 of this year as a result of the near-term action program.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

James Demers said recent legislation has eased some of the difficulties trans Calgarians face— but there is still more to be done. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

Trans still 'vulnerable'

DIVERSITY

Day of Visibility draws attention to challenges

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

When James Demers began his gender transition, he was fired from the construction company where he was working as an apprentice.

"It was a challenging way to start a transition," he recalled.

Being visibly trans in a certain space can result in violence and harassment — something Demers hoped to draw attention to Thursday, which was Trans Day of Visibility.

"There's something about the word visibility, which is kind of interesting in context of the trans community, because trans people have no choice but to be visible."

Demers said trans people are required to live day-to-day as the gender they identify with from the start of their medical process.

But, in the years since his transition, Demers said through his work educating people about trans issues, he's seen an uptick in the number of people who want that information, including teachers.

In the classroom, 15-year-old Ace Peace said those around him have been welcoming and accepting of his transition.

"Not everyone is amazing about it, but they don't say anything. They keep it to themselves," he said, about the student body at Crescent Heights High School. "Especially at this school, it's been positive."

Peace said he's happy to see more trans people in the media, discussing issues like the gender guidelines or speaking at Trans Visibility day.

He says he's more than just his sexual and gender identity — he does well in school, he's a science and space nerd and he hopes to be a tattoo artist like his dad.

Although the trans community has made strides, Demers said they face many barriers.

"Unless the addition of gender identity and gender expression passes and is guaranteed in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, trans people aren't protected when it comes to employment, housing, legal issues, all of those sorts of things," he said. "It leaves us very vulnerable."

Trans people also have trouble accessing the medical community — there aren't a lot of doctors with the knowledge or willingness to work with the trans community, and the ones that do tend to become overworked.

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Black animals last to be adopted: Shelter

PETS

The Humane Society aims to break down misconceptions

Kenneth Appleby
For Metro | Calgary

Black-furred animals are often the last to find their forever homes. KENNETH APPLEBY/FOR METRO

The black colour of some pets is one of the reasons animals have trouble getting adopted, says the Calgary Human Society.

Philip Fulton, manager of community outreach at the Humane Society, said black cats, dogs and rabbits are harder to find homes for then non-black animals.

"If we have a litter of kittens and there's five coloured cats or cats with interesting markings and a complete or plain black cat, the black will be the last to be adopted," said Fulton.

An additional challenge with black cats is the sheer volume up for adoption.

When an animal has an extended stay on the adoption floor, the Humane Society puts that animal on the front page of their website for more exposure.

After that they will move to a social media campaign.

"We've got a wonderful communications team, with a photographer and graphic designer that will produce some pretty cool campaigns for our animals on social media, those have been pretty effective," he said.

The Humane Society will also use traditional media, and take animals to news stations for pets of the week bits.

Fulton said in his experience black cats tend to be better tempered and often make good pets.

"It's an interesting conundrum, these animals are being passed over, when in fact, they are potentially the best temperament," said Fulton.

To combat the ever-present issue of too many black critters, the Humane Society has started by breaking down the various misconceptions.

One is the Humane Society doesn't adopt out, or accept black cats on Halloween.

The other is educating the public that aesthetics isn't the first thing people should look for in a new member of the family.

"When someone says I'm looking for a cat this colour, quite often we'll try to encourage them to tell us the behaviour and personality qualities they're looking for, rather then just trying choose a pet based on aesthetics," said Fulton.

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Meat master shares expertise

ON FILM

Local butcher lends props, product to big, small screens

Kenneth Appleby
For Metro | Calgary

Master Meats is a Calgary one-stop shop for all kinds of meats — and now movie props.

John Wildenborg, owner of the local butchery has supplied meat and other meat-related props to a few films and TV productions since 2013.

"It's a nice experience, especially Fargo season two, I was on set for about 24 days," the butcher said.

Wildenborg first got involved when a longtime customer, Dustin Onofriechuck, prop master for the Fargo TV series, needed props for the show.

"There were a few incidents when they need meat for certain shots, because he knew me, he came to me to supply the meat," said Wildenborg.

When season two of Fargo rolled into town, the prop master approached Wildenborg to help make some sets more authentic.

The show revolved around a 1970s butcher shop. Wildenborg trained actors on how to look and act like butchers.

He also helped outfit the set to look like a butcher shop, adding real meat props and advising how signs should appear and prices set.

He's now listed on the movie website IMBD.com as a butcher technical advisor.

Since his stint on Fargo, Wildenborg has supplied meat and other related props to other film and TV productions such as The Revenant, and the upcoming TV series Wynonna Earp.

When the crew behind Wynonna Earp started shooting its pilot, Wildenborg supplied some interesting props.

"I supplied items that looked like human guts, but had no meat or anything in it so it would be easy for the actors to work with," he said.

The butcher made these innards look life-like and pliable.

Wildenborg isn't sure if this is something that he wants to do full-time, but has really enjoyed his time on set.

He said while on the Fargo set there was this running joke about him carrying a pig over his shoulder.

"I'd be walking around without a pig and people would say I didn't recognize you without a pig."

Shop owner John Wildenborg has helped out on the Fargo TV series, The Revenant and Wynonna Earp. KENNETH APPLEBY / FOR METRO

> **I supplied items that looked like human guts.**
> John Wildenborg

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Documentary Aleberta explores how prohibition shaped the province's beer history. COURTESY SPENCER ESTABROOKS

130 years of what ales you

SCENE YYC

Doc looks at what led up to today's hopping beer scene

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

Spencer Estabrooks sees the brewty in Alberta's ale history.

The documentarian hops through 130 years of brewing in Alberta with his new documentary Aleberta, which premieres at the Globe Theatre on April 7.

"We live in probably one of the most exciting times for beer culture in Alberta," said Estabrooks. "This documentary shows how we got there. When you look at the history of beer, it's really a history of government regulation since prohibition."

He explained that government regulation has been key to the rise and fall of breweries in Alberta. When prohibition was lifted in Alberta, beer was still very restricted.

"We were regulated chairs, we were regulated table sizes," he said. "They could only serve two eight-ounce glasses at a time."

Government liquor stores weren't allowed to show their product either, having patrons fill out a form before getting their liquor.

And for those hoping to gain a little liquid courage before mingling with the ladies at the bar — the government became the angry parent railing, "Not in my house."

> We live in probably one of the most exciting times for beer culture in Alberta.
> Spencer Estabrooks

"After prohibition, there was a rule — men and women weren't allowed to drink together. They had segregated entrances," said Estabrooks.

The sexes would continue to have separate bar entrances until 1967.

Estabrooks said as old laws slowly erode or are removed, craft breweries have begun to rise in Alberta.

According to Estabrooks, the most significant event was in 2013, when the government decided to remove a law that dictated the minimum amount of beer a facility had to brew before calling itself a brewery.

"When they removed that minimum law, it led what's happening right now, which is an explosion of craft beer," he chortled.

He said at the end of 2013, there were 12 breweries in Alberta. At the end of 2015, that number rose to 22.

By the end of 2016, he estimates that number could be close to 40.

Estabrooks said his documentary was only made possible through a grant from Telus Optik Local.

For more information, visit aleberta.com.

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WEEKEND EVENTS

FRIDAY

Taste of Bragg Creek
The fourth annual Taste of Bragg Creek event turns into a restaurant crawl this year. Participating locations are teaming up with liquor vendors to offer something special for the event.

For more information, visit tasteofbraggcreek.ca.

SATURDAY

Yodel Club Anniversary Concert
Celebrating 40 years, the Calgary Yodel Club Heimattreu performs in traditional Swiss dress and sings yodel songs. Concertgoers are encouraged to wear their own traditional attire.

For more information, visit jkheimattreu.com.

SATURDAY

MakeFashion 2016
The wearable technology fashion show returns to the Telus Spark science centre, with 3D-printed, LED-lit dresses that put a focus on the tech.

For more information, visit makefashion.ca.

SUNDAY

Fantastic Four Screening
Sage Theatre screens the 2005 Fantastic Four movie — with a twist. There will be a live commentary of the movie, poking some fun at a time before superhero movies found the right tone.

For more information, visit sagetheatre.com.

AARON CHATHA/METRO

Video Games Live host Tommy Tallarico says it's not just a music show. CONTRIBUTED

A bonus round

Q&A

Video Games Live returns to Calgary

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

Tommy Tallarico has been composing video-game music for more than 25 years and was also the host of Electronic Playground, a game-focused show. Tallarico continues to try to show the cultural and artistic significance of games by touring the world with Video Games Live — a symphony of video-game music. It comes to Calgary on April 6.

Video Games Live — it's not just music, is it?

I'd describe it as having all the power and emotion of a symphony and an orchestra, combined with the energy and excitement of a rock concert, mixed together with the cutting-edge visuals, technology, interactivity and fun of video games. What makes it really special with me is how everything is synchronized, from the massive video screens to stage show production to interactive moments with the crowd.

How has video-game music evolved since you began?

When I first started doing video-game music in the late '80s, early '90s, it was a bunch of bleeps and bloops, and we were held back by the technology. In the mid-'90s when CD-ROMs became available as a storage medium, that's when we could start recording with live musicians and things like that. It really wasn't until the turn of the century when you had games like Halo, Warcraft, Metal Gear, when you really started to see it come to fruition.

What are you playing now?

When I'm on the road I have my (Nintendo) DS with me. So recently, I've dusted out last year's Formula One game, to try to get me in the mood for Formula One this year. At home, I still love playing Red Dead Redemption, even though it's a couple years old at this point. It's such a sandbox; you can do so much.

City schools receive $30K music boost

EDUCATION

MusiCounts program to shower gear across country

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

From left: Jeff Leake of SiriusXM, Heidi Wood, music teacher at Lord Beaverbrook, Mayor Naheed Nenshi, Alessia Cara and Allen Reid, president of CARAS, unveil some of the items distributed to schools in Calgary. CANDICE WARD/FOR METRO

Alessia Cara brought a taste of the wild things to Lord Beaverbrook High School on Thursday — and the school will only grow more musically inclined going forward.

Through the MusiCounts program, the Juno-nominated musician was on hand to announce a donation of instruments and equipment worth $10,000 for the school.

"Music in schools is unfortunately not that common, especially where I'm from," she said. "I mean, we didn't have music in my school. I think it's so important to have that just so that you can explore your creativity and find passions that you may not have known you had."

Allen Reid, CEO of the Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, said the group will be donating $675,000 worth of instruments to 77 schools in the country, including $30,000 worth to four schools in Calgary.

> **Music in schools is unfortunately not that common.**
> Singer Alessia Cara

"Music class is an incredible place. It's where you get to discover your talent, nurture your creativity and, if you're lucky, you'll find a lifetime of music in your soul," said Reid.

Heidi Wood, a music teacher at Beaverbrook, said the donation will be put to good use. The school, with five different choirs, is already very music-focused.

Wood said music helps children learn to be creative, work as a team and open their eyes to the power of community.

Whether it's singing in the shower or on a stage, everyone has a connection to music, Woods said.

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Members of Universal Music Canada, the University of Calgary, EMI Music Canada, and Tom Cochrane pose after revealing U of C will be receiving a generous donation from Universal Music Canada in partnership with the National Music Centre. COURTESY DAVE BROWN/UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

U of C gets massive music collection

DONATION

Archive covers 63 years of music history in Canada

Stephanie Joe
For Metro | Calgary

Music students and music aficionados alike will be able to enjoy a generous donation that was made to the University of Calgary.

Universal Music Canada, in partnership with the National Music Centre, donated the entire EMI Music Canada Label archive to U of C on March 31.

The archive captures 63 years of music history in Canada and consists of 55 hundred boxes with over 2 million documents, photographs and audiovisual recordings.

Bruce Barton, director of the School of Creative and Performing Arts, said that the donation will impact music students directly, however the reverberations will be felt far beyond them.

"It makes the university a bit of a destination," he said. "These things are actually being moved into an academic context and that kind of access will be unprecedented."

Barton said that the material isn't going to be sitting around for people to pick through, though that's a possibility, but there will be expert curating and presenting of the material.

"People who actually know the significance of [the material] will be organizing it and presenting it in such a way that people will be able to make sense of it than if they were just leafing their way through it [on their own]," he said.

Elizabeth Cannon, president of U of C, said that because it's such an extensive collection, it will take a number of years to be received by the archivists.

"This is a wonderful contribution to U of C," she said. "On behalf of all of us here, I want to say a tremendous 'thank you'."

Tom Cochrane, who's in the archive, said that the donations have a respectable home at U of C.

EDMONTON

Landlord held in drug bust

Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Edmonton

Edmonton Police seized nearly two pounds of methamphetamine in a raid Wednesday that ended in the arrest of a city landlord.

Officers from Downtown division executed the search warrant at a business near 93 Avenue and 111 street and seized the methamphetamine along with several other drugs and nearly $9,000 in cash.

Insp. Ed McIsaac said the seizure would put a dent in the local drug trade, but would not be a fatal blow.

"It's a large seizure. It's a large seizure of methamphetamine. You usually don't see this much in one time," he said.

Police have charged Abdullah Shah, 53, who is also known as Carmen Pervez, Sarah Fassman, 36, and Jennifer Vuong, 57.

All three face charges of possession for the purposes of trafficking and possession of stolen property. Shah faces charges of breaching bail conditions.

He was also charged in December in a raid on the same property, McIssac confirmed.

Several local community members have raised concerns about rental units Shah controls and Shah launched a civil suit against them and city Coun. Scott McKeen last year.

McIsaac said police hadn't targeted Shah because of any issues with rental properties, but were simply following the evidence.

Halifax Explosion wins

HERITAGE MINUTE

Voters crown iconic episode of historical series the king

Yvette d'Entremont
Metro | Halifax

Vincent Coleman at the end of the Heritage Minute. CONTRIBUTED

"Hurry! You've got to get these people out of here. That ship is going to blow," an actor playing train dispatcher Vince Coleman breathlessly says during a heritage minute re-enactment of the Halifax Explosion.

The Heritage Minutes series is an iconic Canadian tradition, providing short snippets of important moments in the country's history. Vimy Ridge, Terry Fox, Superman, Laura Secord and Agnes MacPhail are among 82 varied videos that make up the series.

On March 31, the Halifax Explosion minute was crowned champion of the Heritage Minutes following Historica Canada's #MinutesMadness Twitter contest.

Andrea Hall, communications spokeswoman for Historica Canada said the contest began March 7 as a lead-up to the 25th anniversary of the launch of the Heritage Minutes.

Each week viewers got to choose between a selection of videos. The contest garnered more than 2,000 votes. Voting closed at midnight Thursday.

2,000
The contest brought in more than 2,000 votes

The final two Heritage Minutes left standing were from Nova Scotia: the Halifax Explosion and the story of Viola Desmond challenging segregation in the province in the 1940s.

Desmond's Heritage Minute defeated the Underground Railroad, while the Halifax Explosion short video beat Dr. Wilder Penfield, credited with "drawing the road map of the human brain."

On Thursday morning, the Halifax Explosion video won over Viola Desmond with 62 per cent of the overall vote.

IN BRIEF

Court rules Vice must give up material

A Canadian news outlet must give the RCMP background materials used for stories on Farah Shirdon, a suspected terrorist, despite the reporter's objections, a judge has ruled. The Vice stories in 2014 were based on conversations Ben Makuch had with Shirdon via an online instant messaging app called Kik Messenger. RCMP want access to screen captures of those chats. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Economy kicks of 2016 with strong growth

The Canadian economy kicked off 2016 by rocketing higher, raising hopes for better-than-expected growth this year.

Real gross domestic product rose 0.6 per cent in the first month of the year, boosted by manufacturing, retail trade and the oil and gas sector, Statistics Canada reported Thursday. The result was twice the 0.3 per cent that economists had expected for the month.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

'We can't let those people die in vain'

This photo posted to Faith Strang's Facebook page shows her three children Ireland (standing in black), Aubree (standing holding a bottle), and Amber (in the green walker). Faith, the three children, and five other family members are believed to have been killed in a fire on the First Nations reserve in Pikangikum, Ont., on Tuesday. FACEBOOK.COM

TRAGEDY

Six adults, 3 kids killed in First Nation community fire

A First Nations chief says the deaths of nine people in a house fire on a remote northern Ontario reserve should spur the federal government to improve what he says are third-world conditions on dozens of reserves.

"We can't let these people die in vain," Isadore Day with the Chiefs of Ontario said Thursday.

"There should be a direct and immediate response to this situation. This is typical across all First Nations that are living in third-world conditions."

A blaze that erupted in a family home late Tuesday night on the Pikangikum reserve killed six adults and three children.

Ontario Provincial Police said investigators and a stress team were in the community, but finding the cause of the blaze could take "a week or more."

A fundraising page created by a community member identified the dead as Gilbert and Annette Strang, their daughter Faith, Faith's husband Dietrich Peters and the younger couple's three children — Ireland, 4, Aubree, 2, and eight-month-old Amber.

The Strangs' son Gilbert and his wife Sylvia Peters also died in the fire, it said.

Previous inquests into similar tragedies have highlighted the challenges facing remote northern reserves such as Pikangikum.

Homes are dilapidated, not built to comply with any modern code and often don't have running water, let alone a smoke detector. There are often several generations of families sharing a tiny bungalow, heightening the potential toll fires can take when they break out.

"Most homes are simply a death trap," Day said.

Any fires spread quickly and communities are often woefully unprepared. Many don't have fire trucks and rely on water trucks with no more pressure than a garden hose. If a community is lucky enough to have a fire truck, there are often not enough trained volunteers to operate it properly, inquests and internal government reports have found.

Day said more than 90 per cent of homes don't have running water in Pikangikum.

Indigenous Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett said Thursday the deaths underscore the need to improve living conditions on reserves. She said money in the recent federal budget will help improve the deplorable state of reserve housing. But she couldn't say when a community such as Pikangikum could expect vastly improved living standards.

National Chief Perry Bellegarde of the Assembly of First Nations said the federal budget was a good start to make up for decades of neglect. Too many indigenous people are dying in fires that are completely preventable, he said.

"How many more deaths have to happen before action is implemented? It's not acceptable in 2016." THE CANADIAN PRESS

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Prince Edward Island to allow access to abortions in province

Prince Edward Island has agreed to provide abortions within the province by the end of the year, ending decades of forcing women to travel to neighbouring provinces to access the procedure.

The Island's Liberal government announced Thursday it will not fight a legal challenge launched in the province's Supreme Court by the group Abortion Access Now, which says the province has an obligation to provide safe abortions under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

PEI is the last province in the country to allow abortion access within the province, 28 years after the 1988 Morgentaler decision of the Supreme Court struck down laws restricting abortion in Canada.

Women from the Island must currently travel to New Brunswick or Nova Scotia to get abortions paid for by the Island government.

The group that launched the recent lawsuit said Thursday's announcement was the culmination of years of relentless lobbying for change.

> **Today is a good day for equality rights in P.E.I.**
> Abortion Access Now

Health Minister Robert Henderson said Health PEI has been told to develop plans for a women's reproductive health centre somewhere on the Island. He says it should be in place by the end of the year.

He said the new centre, to be located within a hospital, will offer a range of services including counselling.

The P.E.I. Right to Life Association panned the change in policy and said it will continue to provide public education in opposition of abortion.

"We are not in support of the government's decision to allow the dismemberment and decapitation of the preborn human child on the Island," said executive director Nicole Dupuis, adding she is pleased that the new centre will provide counselling services before and after abortions.

In a statement, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau applauded the announcement.

"The Government of Canada reaffirms its belief that a woman should have access to reproductive health services, no matter where they live in our country," Trudeau said.

It was also welcomed by Vicki Saporta, president of the National Abortion Federation.

"Sometimes you do need to bring legal challenges in order to effectuate change. It's unfortunate that it took the threat of a legal challenge to have the government do the right thing," Saporta said in an interview from her office in Washington, D.C.

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Architect Zaha Hadid dead at 65

Irene Kuan
Metro | Toronto

World-renowned British-Iraqi architect Dame Zaha Hadid, best known for her design of the London Aquatic Centre, has died after suffering a heart attack in Miami. She was 65.

"It is with great sadness that Zaha Hadid Architects have confirmed that Dame Zaha Hadid died suddenly in Miami in the early hours of this morning," according to a statement from her company.

Born in Baghdad, and based in the U.K., Hadid was perhaps the most famous female architect in the world, and was the first female recipient of many top industry awards, including the 2004 Pritzker Architecture Prize.

In 2015, she became the first solo female winner in 167 years to receive the Royal Institute of British Architects' Gold Medal.

Known as a true 'Starchitect,' a term given mostly to male architects, her innovative and futurist structures can be seen all over the world.

Queen Elizabeth honoured her with 'Dame' status in 2012.

Hadid's larger-than-life career faced many obstacles, in an industry that's still known to be male-dominated and often unfavourable to women. She frequently spoke about the prejudices she faced as a female architect.

"Starchitect" Zaha Hadid
AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Greek lawmakers ready to OK migrant deportations

LEGISLATION

Over 50,000 stranded at border with Macedonia

Lawmakers in Greece were ready to support legislation to deport refugees back to Turkey as clashes between migrants persisted Thursday at overcrowded detention camps.

A three-hour fight broke out overnight between groups of migrants camping out in Greece's main port of Piraeus, leaving eight people injured and requiring treatment at nearby hospitals.

The clashes, believed to have been between Afghan and Syrian migrants, left the area strewn with rocks and broken glass. New protests were also reported at detention camps on the Greek islands of Lesbos and Chios, from where deportations to Turkey are due to start next week.

More than 50,000 refugees and migrants have been stranded in Greece after Balkan countries closed their borders to the massive flow of refugees pouring into Europe. Some 11,500 remain camped out at the border with Macedonia, ignoring instructions from the government to move to organized shelters. Hundreds of those camping out in Piraeus were boarding buses Thursday for newly created refugee camps elsewhere in Greece.

Government officials described the violence as minor.

In Athens, the government submitted draft legislation required for the landmark migration agreement reached this month by the European Union and Turkey to take full effect. The deal aims to break the smuggling rings that have brought hundreds of thousands of people from Turkey across the Aegean Sea to Greece.

Due to be voted on late Friday, the bill would upgrade Greek asylum services and set conditions for refugees and migrants to be sent back to Turkey from the Greek islands.

The returns are to start Monday, but most support staff promised by other EU countries have still not arrived on Greek islands, and the method of how to return the refugees is still being negotiated between the EU, Turkey and Greece.

Turkey's prime minister said the deal with the EU will go into effect as scheduled on Monday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Due to be voted on Friday, the bill would set conditions for refugees and migrants to be sent back to Turkey from the Greek islands. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

INDIA

Overpass collapse kills dozens

A long section of a road overpass under construction collapsed Thursday in a crowded Kolkata neighbourhood, with tons of concrete and steel slamming into midday traffic, leaving at least 21 people dead and scores of others injured in the Indian city, police said.

Rescuers used saws, small cranes and their bare hands to dig through the wreckage in search of survivors.

At least 21 people were killed, a police official said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media. It was not immediately clear how many people remained missing.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Donald Trump speaks to guests during a campaign rally at St. Norbert College on Wednesday in De Pere, Wis.

SCOTT OLSON/GETTY IMAGES

Trump backtracks on abortion

U.S. PRESIDENTIAL RACE

Republican front-runner under fire over women's issues

Donald Trump is fighting to convince a skeptical Republican Party he can improve his standing among women, even as he takes back an explosive comment about abortion and attacks the credibility of a female reporter police say was illegally grabbed by the billionaire's campaign manager.

It took Trump's campaign just hours to backtrack on Wednesday after he said that should abortion become illegal, women who undergo the procedure should face "some sort of punishment." The plan sparked a backlash, prompting Trump to release two statements clarifying his position. His second statement said only those who perform abortions would be "held legally responsible, not the woman."

"The woman is a victim in this case as is the life in her womb," Trump said.

The flap comes as Trump works to hold off a challenge from chief rival Sen. Ted Cruz in Wisconsin's high-stakes primary next Tuesday.

A big loss for Trump in Wisconsin would reduce his chances of securing the delegates he needs to clinch the party's nomination. It could also offer new hope to rival Ted Cruz and outside groups that see Trump as a threat.

Trump, however, still maintains a lead in the delegate count and with a win in Wisconsin, his grasp on the party's presidential nomination could be unbreakable. Delegates pledged to candidates are elected in state primaries and then vote for the party's nominee at the national convention in July.

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VIRGINIA

State trooper shot dead at Greyhound bus station

Virginia State Police say a trooper has died after a shooting at a Greyhound bus station in Richmond.

Virginia State Police Superintendent Col. Steven Flaherty says the trooper, Chad Dermyer, died Thursday after being shot multiple times.

State Police have said two civilians were also shot at the terminal.

The gunman was shot dead by two other troopers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UN plagued by sex abuse allegations

The United Nations on Thursday announced 108 new alleged victims of sexual abuse, the vast majority of them minors, by peacekeepers in Central African Republic, and it called "shocking to the core" a report that three girls said a French military commander forced them to have sex with a dog.

The revelations dramatically widened the scope of a sexual abuse scandal that has persisted for months. France's UN ambassador, Francois Delattre, called the allegations "sickening and odious" and promised "exemplary disciplinary action" if they're proven true.

The latest allegations, dating from 2013 through last year, were first announced by a U.S.-based advocacy group, AIDS-Free World, late Wednesday. UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric on Thursday told reporters that the UN can't confirm the allegations involving a dog at this point but that investigations continue.

AIDS-Free World said Wednesday night that 98 girls in Central African Republic, also known as CAR, had reported being sexually abused between 2013 and 2015 by perpetrators who have left the country. It also said information on the alleged rape of a 16-year-old girl by a Congolese peacekeeper only three days ago in a hotel room has been turned over to the United Nations.

The United Nations has been in the spotlight for months over dozens of allegations of child rape and other sexual abuses by its peacekeepers, especially those based in Central African Republic, which has faced sectarian violence since 2013. There have been similar allegations against the French force known as Sangaris, which operates independently in CAR.

"We must face the fact that a number of troops sent to protect people instead acted with hearts of darkness," Dujarric said Thursday.

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FRANCE PROTESTS OVER LABOUR REFORMS French riot police clash with protesters near the Gare de Lyon train station in Paris on Thursday. The protesters were demonstrating against labour law reforms meant to make it easier to hire and fire employees and to relax France's strict 35-hour workweek. As train drivers, teachers and others went on strike, student organizations and seven employee unions combined to condemn the Socialist government's bill. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Child migrants not told of rights, report says

REFUGEES

Nearly 36,000 children detained last year in Mexico

Mexico does not comply with its own laws on handling unaccompanied child migrants who arrive in the country fleeing violence in Central America, a Human Rights Watch report said Thursday.

Since the United States pressured Mexico to step up detentions of migrants to reduce a surge reaching the U.S. border, the number of children detained in Mexico has risen dramatically. Last year, Mexican authorities apprehended nearly 36,000 children, more than half of whom were unaccompanied. It detained 9,600 children in 2013.

In interviews with 61 child migrants, Human Rights Watch researchers were told by only one that officials had informed him of his right to seek refugee recognition, as is required by Mexican law.

Children were not properly screened for possible refugee claims, the report said. On the contrary, it said, the children described immigration officials who warned them of long stays in detention if they applied for asylum. And even if they did want to apply, there was no legal assistance to help them navigate the process.

Only 0.3 per cent of the unaccompanied child migrants detained in Mexico were granted international protection in 2015, the report said.

"If the interest is enforcement, which it is, meaning arrest, detention and deportation, it is clearly in the interest of individual officials, agents, to make that as easy as possible," said Michael Bochenek, senior counsel to the children's rights division of Human Rights Watch and the report's author. "They are not complying with the law, and as to why they are doing that, that's an open question. There is no question that the incentive is to cut corners."

Without mentioning the report, Mexico's national immigration institute released a statement Thursday saying that "without exception" all unaccompanied children are informed of their rights and cared for until they can be reunified with their families.

The statement also said that immigration officials offer child migrants refuge, but they reject it because "their only purpose is to arrive in the United States or reunite with their closest relatives."

The issue is most acute in southern Mexico, where most of migrant children are stopped. A fraction of the children are transferred to shelters run by a government agency.

While some children are migrating for economic reasons many are fleeing for their lives, escaping violent homes or relentless street gangs that control many of their neighbourhoods in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. Most are believed to be trying to reach the U.S. where they have relatives or expect greater economic opportunities.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A young migrant girl, on her way to the U.S. border, waits for a freight train to depart in Ixtepec, Mexico. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Syrians rush to rescue history

ANTIQUITY

Artifacts hidden away from looters, Daesh zealots

In this Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2016 photo, Syrian women sit in the garden of the National Museum in Damascus, Syria.
HASSAN AMMAR/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

With Daesh militants on the doorstep of his hometown in eastern Syria, Yaroob al-Abdullah had little time. He had already rushed his wife and four daughters to safety. Now he had to save the thousands of ancient artifacts he loved.

In a week of furious work in summer heat, tired and dehydrated from the Ramadan fast, the head of antiquities in Deir el-Zour province and his staff packed up most of the contents of the museum in the provincial capital. Then al-Abdullah flew with 12 boxes of relics to Damascus.

The pieces included masterpieces: A nearly 5,000-year-old statuette of a smiling worshipper. A colorful mural fragment from a 2nd-century temple for the god Bel. Thousands of fragile clay tablets inscribed with cuneiform writing, including administrative records, letters and business deals that provide a glimpse at life nearly 4,000 years ago in the Semitic kingdom of Mari.

The move, carried out in 2014, was part of a mission by antiquities officials across Syria to evacuate everything that could be saved from Daesh extremists and looters. The extent of the operation has been little known until now, but its participants described to The Associated Press a massive effort — at least 29 of Syria's 34 museums largely emptied out and more than 300,000 artifacts brought to the capital.

The pieces are now hidden in secret locations known only to the few specialists who handled them, said Maamoun Abdulkarim, who as head of the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums in Damascus oversaw the operation.

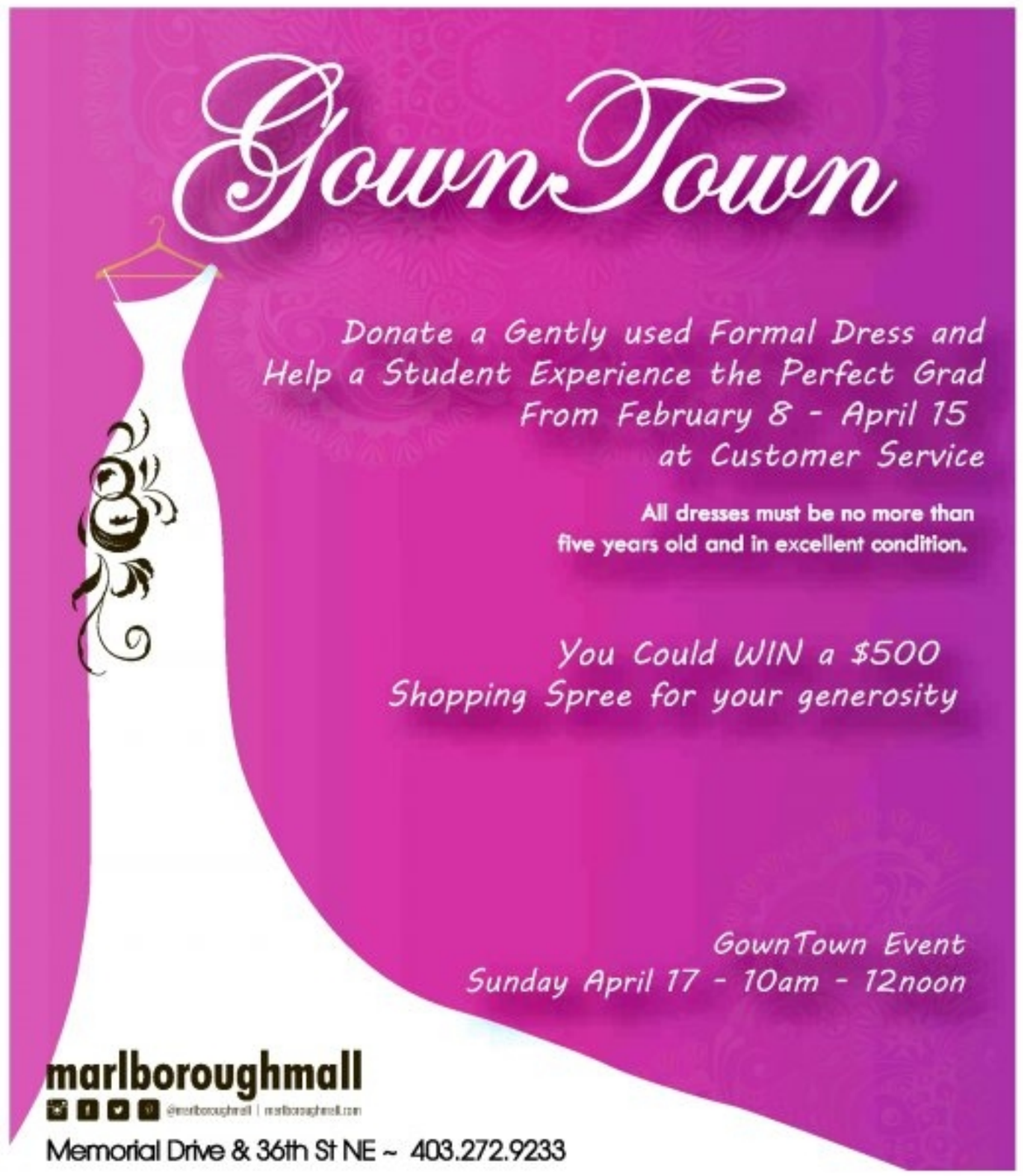
"Other than that, no one knows where these antiquities are — not a politician, not any other Syrian."

Across the country, the destruction has been tragic. Wherever they overran territory in Syria and Iraq, Daesh jihadis relentlessly blew up, bulldozed or otherwise tore down monuments they consider pagan affronts. They and other traffickers have taken advantage of the chaos from the 5-year-old civil war to loot sites and sell off artifacts. Even in the museums that were evacuated, some items were too large to move — giant statues or ancient gates and murals — and fell into Daesh hands, their fate unknown.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

300,000

At least this many artifacts from the Middle East's thousands of years of history have been hidden in secret locations in Damascus, safe from thieves and religious extremists.



Nintendo goes mobile

TECHNOLOGY

Revenue from mobile gaming surpassing consoles

After a promising launch in Japan, Nintendo's long-overdue foray into mobile is set for a much wider test.

The Japanese electronics maker's free to download Miitomo mobile app for iOS and Android went live in the U.S. Thursday. Nintendo says Miitomo is also available in numerous other counties including Canada and in several languages.

While Nintendo remains committed to the video console business it has a powerful impetus for branching out given that Candy Crush maker King and others have demonstrated that a single mobile game franchises can generate billion-dollar annual sales.

Industry research firm Newzoo estimates that mobile gaming revenue hit $30 billion (U.S.) last year, surpassing console gaming at $26.4 billion. Newzoo says while growth has cooled in North America and Europe, it remains explosive in Asia.

Nintendo is partnering with Tokyo Internet firm DeNA to develop and operate new game apps based on Nintendo's intellectual property, including its iconic game characters, for use on nearly ubiquitous mobile devices.

"With Miitomo, Nintendo takes its first step into the world of smart devices," said Scott Moffitt, Nintendo of America's executive vice president of sales and marketing.

Nintendo says the app was downloaded a million times in the first three days in Japan after its release on March 17, ranking as the most downloaded free app on both the App Store and Google Play.

The company, however, is playing catch up in the increasingly crowded mobile game space and its in app purchase strategy is unlikely to make up for a lack of paid app revenue in the early stages.

But analysts said the mobile offering could bring back players who migrated away from games on the company's dedicated hardware, such as the Wii and handheld DS devices.

"This should remove any doubts about the Nintendo brand's relevancy in the smartphone age," said Jefferies analyst Atul Goyal.

The family-friendly games maker plans to launch four more mobile games by the end of 2017 that will also be free to download.

Unlike Miitomo, future titles will include some of Nintendo's most popular characters and the company has promised to bring hits like Super Mario Bros. to mobile phones and tablets. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

> **"With Miitomo, Nintendo takes its first step into the world of smart devices.** Scott Moffitt

Nintendo is partnering with Tokyo Internet firm DeNA to develop and operate new game apps based on Nintendo's intellectual property, including its iconic game characters. CONTRIBUTED

GAMING

What's next?

Nintendo will always be beloved by gamers for its unique take on gaming. Here's a look at their main products and what might be coming next:

1. **3DS** — The DS line of products have sold more than 200-million units, but sales have declined over the past four years. It was the dominant portable system, and while beloved franchises and characters still sell well, it's facing huge competition from smartphone gaming, where the prices of games are a fraction of the price.
2. **Wii U** — Nintendo's latest home console has struggled ever since it launched, and just never captured the sales lightning of its predecessor, the Wii. However, most fans are already looking toward what's coming next.
3. **Mobile** — Miitomo is the first game out of Nintendo's partnership with DeNA, the first Japanese mobile game company that it's partnered with. The plan is to create new games based on the company's characters, but not release versions of older console games.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Free tax software is best for simple returns, expert says

With tax season upon us, some Canadians may be exploring new options for filing their returns this year.

Should you hire an accountant? Or do them yourself on a computer or on paper? Experts say the answer to that question depends on how complicated your financial situation is and how comfortable you are with taking on the task.

Last year, the Canada Revenue Agency received 23.4 million (81 per cent) electronic returns compared with 5.4 million (19 per cent) paper returns. It notes that the number of people filing their personal tax returns electronically, either on their own or via a tax professional, has been steadily increasing over the past five years.

If filing over the computer doesn't appeal to you, filers can still go the free route if they go to one of the free temporary volunteer-run tax preparation clinics across the country aimed at those with low to moderate incomes.

Dale Romanovsky, a chartered professional accountant, says free tax help and free software can help filers save money but it's really most beneficial for those with simple returns. Those who have more complicated filings — for example, different streams of income, foreign property or a small business — should consider seeking in-person, professional help.

ISTOCK

"If their return is pretty simple, (they're) just earning employment income, then the software should be manageable," he said.

"But once you have complexity, investment income, business income — there are a lot of planning opportunities … and decisions that you should be making when doing the return," he said.

"The programs try to help you with that, but they're not a professional. They're just a program that will help you input the data properly, so you may be not making the best decision."

For instance, Romanovsky says accountants can help you look at your current financial situation and what it may be in the upcoming years to determine whether it's more beneficial for you to carry over RRSP room rather than claim it right away. Those with a small businesses may also benefit from a professional who can tell them what expenses they can deduct.

That kind of advice is not as easily accessible through a computer program.

Todd Stanley, the general manager at TurboTax Canada, says the tax filing giant has been offering a free software option for years. Typically, filers may want to try out the free software and then by the next year, may consider paying for a more supported version when their tax situation becomes more complicated, like if they have stocks, mutual funds and rental property.

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Your essential daily news **SCIENCE SAYS** Weekend, April 1-3, 2016

R.I.P. LAUNDRY? A fabric with silver and copper nanoparticles can clean itself when exposed to light.

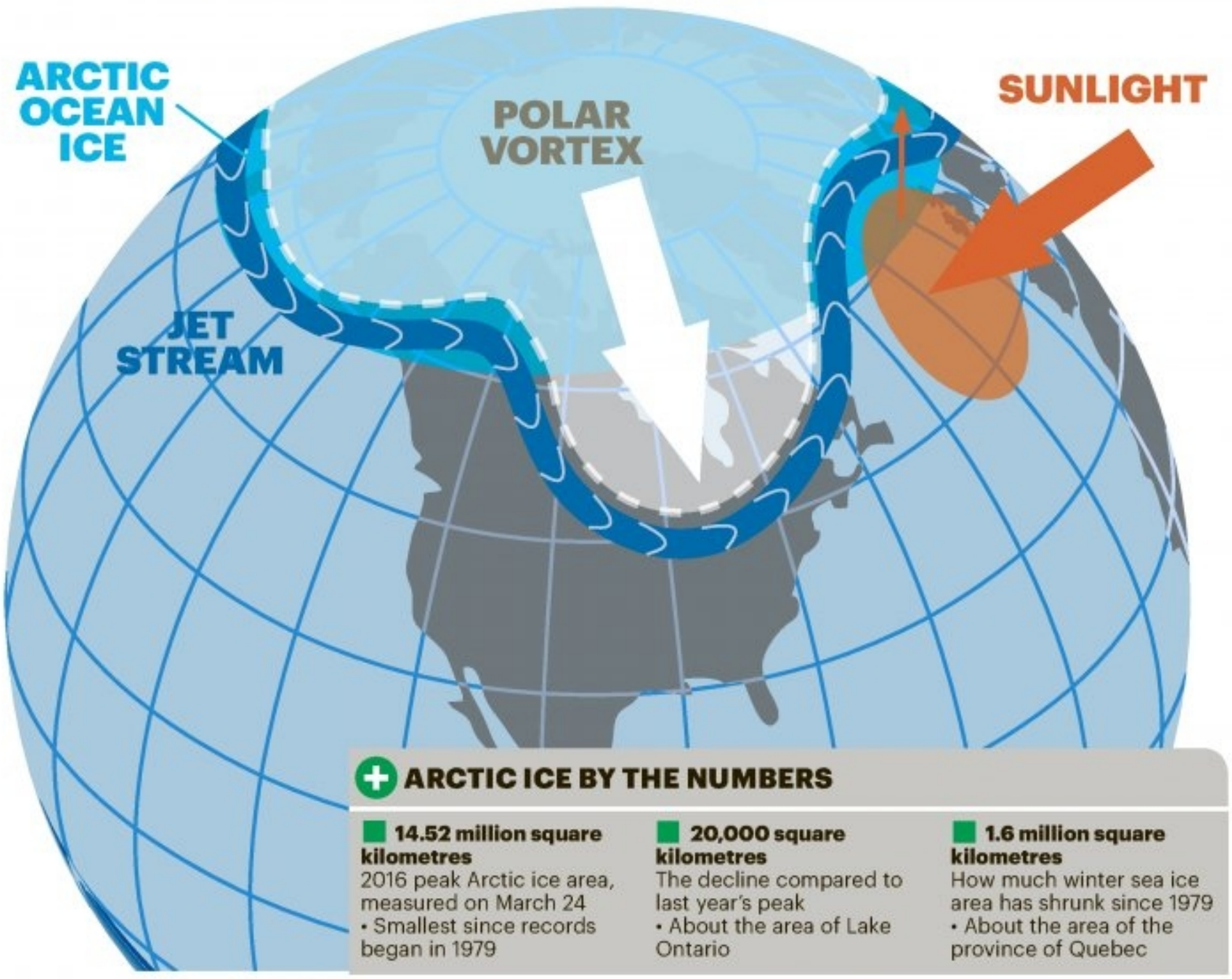
DECODED Climate shocker

NOW GLOBAL WARMING MAKES THINGS COLDER

The polar ice cap is the smallest we have ever seen it. Each winter, the vast arena of ice that covers the Arctic Ocean reaches a peak area big enough to cover all of Canada and about half the United States. This year is different. The ice's peak size is the smallest it's been in the 37 years we've measured it. Climate change is here, and **we could be in for some wild weather.**

WHAT'S GOING ON?
Scientists believe sea ice helps keep the circling mass of cold air we call the **polar vortex** close to the North Pole.

- As global average temperatures have climbed, the **Arctic Ocean ice** has shrunk. Arctic temperatures were 5.5 to 8.3 C above normal this season.
- With less ice to reflect **sunlight**, the ocean absorbs it.
- This triggers changes to pressure and temperature and causes the **jet stream** to wander and wobble.
- The result? Frigid **polar vortex** air travels south, unleashing cold snaps like the one expected in the next few days from Manitoba to the Maritimes. Brr!
- A meandering **jet stream** is also a recipe for extreme weather events like Hurricane Sandy.



ARCTIC ICE BY THE NUMBERS

14.52 million square kilometres
2016 peak Arctic ice area, measured on March 24
• Smallest since records began in 1979

20,000 square kilometres
The decline compared to last year's peak
• About the area of Lake Ontario

1.6 million square kilometres
How much winter sea ice area has shrunk since 1979
• About the area of the province of Quebec

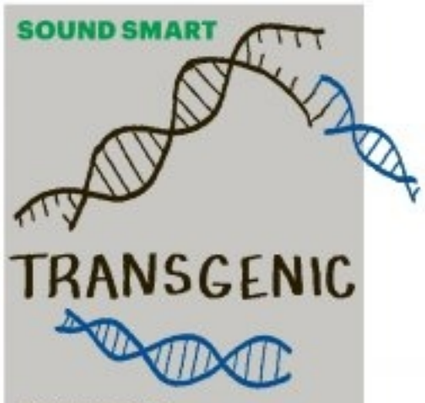
GRAPHIC: ANDRÉS PLANA/METRO

FINDINGS
Your week in science

FACE FACTS
Ohio State University researchers say just one facial expression is universal: the "Not Face." Wherever you are in the world, the crinkled brow, thin lips and raised chin mean, "I do not agree."

ZOOMED IN ON ZIKA
Images taken with a powerful cryo-electron microscope show the sugar molecules on the outer shell of the Zika virus are in a different place than on similar viruses such as dengue. Purdue University biologists believe those sticky sugars may play a role in how Zika latches onto brain cells.

SOUND SMART



DEFINITION
Transgenic living things have been engineered to contain genes from a different species. **Transgenic is a more accurate term than "genetically modified."**

USE IT IN A SENTENCE
"Marco spent all day in the grocery store looking for cereal that is not **transgenic** — he doesn't know overwhelming evidence shows transgenic foods are perfectly safe to eat."

CITIZEN SCIENTIST by Genna Buck

I can't keep up — now, any alcohol is bad for me?

What, now even one or two drinks a day is unhealthy? I'm so sick of conflicting health advice! — Felicia, Vancouver

Dear Felicia,

Believe me, as a boxed-wine aficionado, I'm upset about this too. An analysis out of the University of Victoria this month looked at 87 past studies about the relationship between drinking alcohol and rates of death from any cause. It cast doubt on years of evidence suggesting people who enjoy one or two drinks per day have lower rates of heart disease, diabetes and death than those who never drink at all. (That's *premature* death. The lifetime risk of death is 100 per cent). Here's the problem: 73 of these studies didn't sort the participants properly. Abstainers (people who don't drink and never have) were frequently lumped into the "non-drinkers" category along with people who currently abstain, but used to drink.

And why do people quit drinking? Often because of health problems or old age. Light drinkers misleadingly appear healthier in comparison.

After adjusting the data for that, there was little difference in death rates between light drinkers and teetotallers. Light drinkers are at higher risk of cancer death, but a lower risk of heart disease.

This is one paper, not the final word on the topic. But it shows the need to be careful interpreting observational studies of health outcomes at a big-picture, population level; so many variables are at play that it's hard to account for them all.

Here's what we do know: Any benefits of alcohol disappear above one or two drinks a day, and drinkers knocking back four or more risk addiction, serious health problems and early demise. But for most, light drinking is low-risk. I'll raise one or two glasses to that.

Science Question? Tweet @genna_buck

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by Jason Logan

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metro Your essential daily news

STAR MEDIA GROUP PRESIDENT **John Cruickshank**
VICE PRESIDENT & EDITOR **Cathrin Bradbury**
VICE PRESIDENT & GROUP PUBLISHER METRO WESTERN CANADA **Steve Shrout**
MANAGING EDITOR CALGARY **Darren Krause**
ADVERTISER INQUIRIES adinfocalgary@metronews.ca
General phone 403-444-0136

metro WEEKEND
Your essential daily news
MOVIES MUSIC TELEVISION DIGITAL

Linklater goes for the raunch

FILM

Newest film set in 1980, before the cultural backlash

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

Richard Linklater's new film Everybody Wants Some!! is set in that sweet spot between Saturday Night Fever and the Reagan Years.

Ripe with feathered hair, bell-bottom pants and milk crates used as LP storage, it's the story of college life over the course of one weekend in 1980.

"It was a raunchy time," says Linklater. "It was pretty hedonistic. Sex, drugs and rock and roll. I had to impose that back on my cast.

"Disco was sex. Dancing was foreplay. You were hoping to keep it going and that it would get personal. The humour was really raunchy. It was not innocent but there was a certain kind of playfulness to it."

The 55-year-old director calls the 1980s "A good time to be in your twenties. I was that guy who took his album collection and his music and his speakers off to college. My entire net worth at that age was in music."

"You do a movie to examine your feelings or what you think," he says. "I thought a lot about my own life at that time and also the culture. It's my little anthropological look (at 1980).

"I came out of it thinking that was the end of something. The eighties got much more serious. There was the AIDS epidemic but also there was the cultural backlash. There was the Reagan administration, Pat Robertson, (Jerry) Falwell and it's kind of a war and not only a war on drugs.

"They were trying to move the culture back to the fifties or some mythical past before all this corruption, i.e. the freedoms of the sixties, women's liberation. That was really in full gear by '82, '83 so I look at this and think, this was the last time there was that unabashed, raunchy hedonistic pure fun.

"I look at it and go, that was a good time to be young because that was all going to change."

The Texas-born filmmaker says he spent his '80s college years underground, immersed in punk rock. "It was getting kind of ugly in accepted culture so I zoned out a lot of it."

Since then he has chronicled contemporary suburban culture in films like Slacker, Dazed and Confused and the twelve-years-in-the-making Boyhood. Along the way he's learned a thing or two about how society is changing.

"I think the culture has actually changed less and less," he says.

"I observed that on Boyhood. I thought the world would look a lot different in those twelve years. If you take 1969 to 1981 you got a lot of different looks, cars, everything. In Boyhood, the phones changed but the cars all looked the same, the hairstyles.

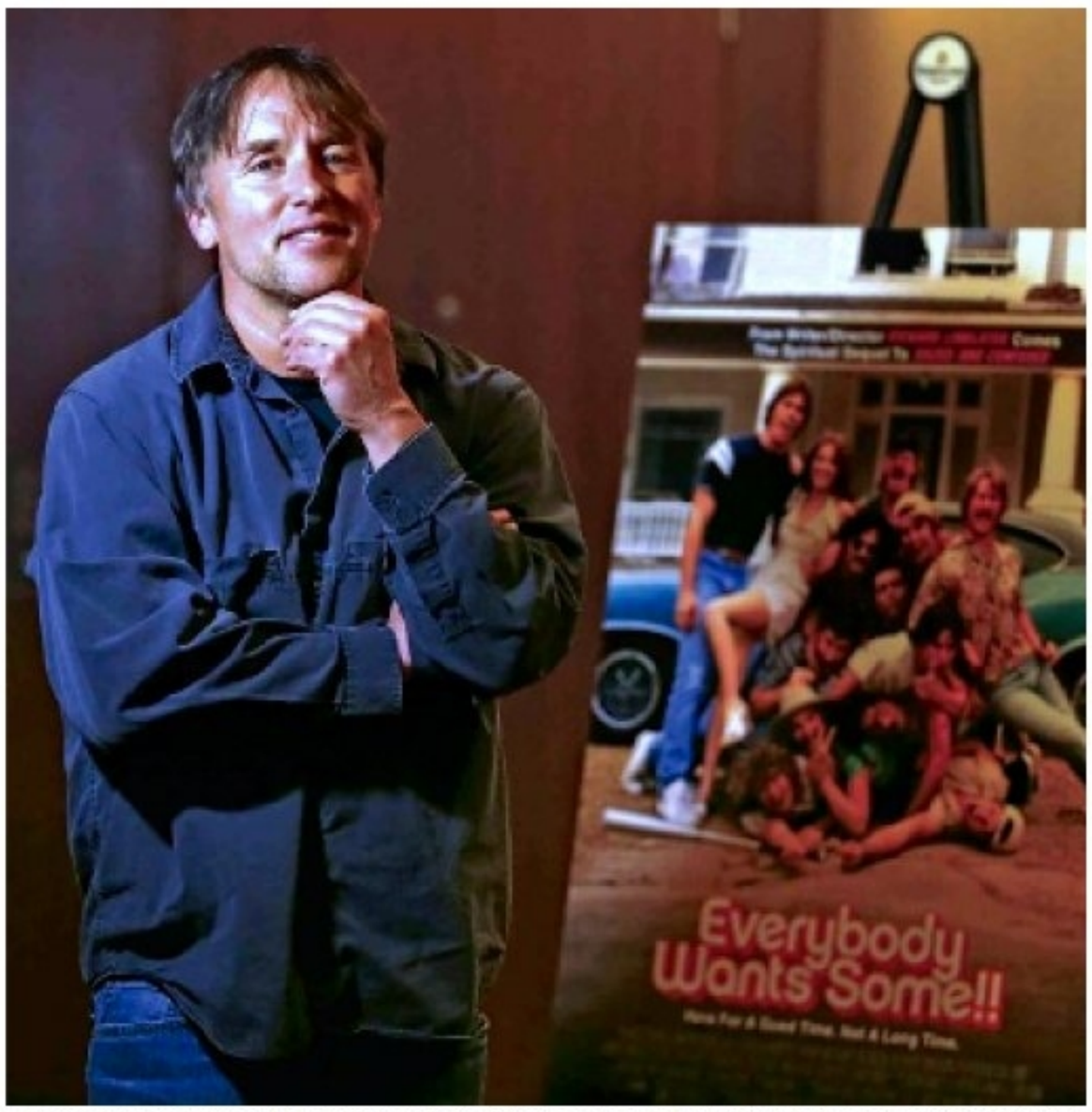
"I think we've hit a wall. Technology is so quick moving that it satisfies that desire in us for change. Punk comes out of (the idea) that I want something new.

"I don't think humans feel that deep need for demonstrable rejection of the old and embracing of the new because they feel there is so much being satisfied technologically. Whatever urge that was to stick a safety pin in your cheek and go create a new dance, you don't see that anymore."

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

Midnight Special	★★★★
Everybody Wants Some!!	★★★★

HOW RATING WORKS
★★★★ SEE IT
★★★ WORTHWHILE
★★ UP TO YOU
★ SKIP IT



Writer/director Richard Linklater, maker of Boyhood and The Before Trilogy, poses for pictures in Toronto. His new film Everybody Wants Some!! is a "spiritual sequel" to his early hit Dazed and Confused. VINCE TALOTTA/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR AN APPLICATION FOR A PERMANENT GUARDIANSHIP ORDER TO:

ANDREW TAILFEATHERS

Take notice that on the following dates, a hearing will take place in the Family and Youth Court, located at the Calgary Court Centre, 601 - 5th Street S.W. in the City of Calgary in the Province of Alberta: April 28th, 2016 at 9:30 am; and May 2nd, 3rd, and 5th, 2016 at 9:30 am. A Director under the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act will make an application for a Permanent Guardianship Order on a matter in which you are interested. You are requested to be present at the hearing, by order of the Court, your whereabouts being unknown, substitutional service of notice of this hearing was ordered by publication of one notice in this newspaper. You have the right to be represented by legal counsel. An order may be made in your absence in accordance with the practice of the Court.

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NEW FILM

For con man, lying is just a way of life

The movie Thank You for Calling is based on the exploits of French-Israeli con man Gilbert Chikli, who would pretend to be a CEO or intelligence agent. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The man who nearly stole over 70 million euros from France's business and banking elite is a serial manipulator who sees fraud not as a crime but as a way of life, according to those behind a new film based on the con artist's exploits.

Je Compte sur Vous — released in English under the name Thank You for Calling — is based on the exploits of the French-Israeli Gilbert Chikli, who engineered rogue payments by phoning companies and pretending to be the firm's CEO or a French intelligence agent. Those behind the film, which was released in France on Dec. 30, describe Chikli as a chameleon of a man, a brazen charmer whose boasts suggest he has yet to abandon his criminal career.

"Chikli is an unstoppable seduction machine," said director Pascal Elbe in a recent interview in Paris. "For him it's a job; it's definitely not a con."

Chikli's heists were astounding in their daring. With a little background research and a well-placed phone call, Chikli could cajole or bluster his way into organizing the transfer of several hundred thousand, a million or even millions of euros to bank accounts in Dubai, Russia, China or Hong Kong.

His victims put down the phone convinced they were speaking to their boss or to a genuine French spy. One spoke of being taken in by a man with "an extremely powerful tone of voice and self-assurance." Two more were convinced — somehow — to withdraw cash and hand-deliver it to bars in Paris. When tricks or charm didn't work, Chikli turned to bullying; another employee was threatened with losing her job if she didn't immediately organize the transfer of nearly $2 million to the U.K.

"He adapts to his interlocutor; that's what's crazy," Elbe said. "He improvises. He reacts. He riffs off what you're saying and gives you back what you want to hear."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fans and critics clash over latest superhero movie

BATMAN V SUPERMAN

Blockbuster reaction shows widening gap

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

Rotten Tomatoes gave Batman v Superman a lukewarm 29 per cent rating while taking in $166.1 million in the North American box office. HANDOUT

Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice didn't do well with critics, but was a giant hit with fans. The New Republic called it an "indigestible, posturing, two-and-a-half-hour mope-fest," while Time Out blasted it, calling it "a $250 million tombstone for a genre in dire need of a break."

In my written review I gave it an unenthusiastic two out of five star rating, describing it as "essentially a long trailer for the next DC superhero ensemble movie tagged on to a WrestleMania style smack down." On my regular Canada AM review segment I joked it should have been subtitled Yawn of Justice.

About four seconds after I wrapped my television review the first of many tweets and Facebook responses started cluttering up my social media pages. I'd detail them all individually, but most of them were variations on this one from Frank in Nova Scotia: "@RichardCrouse good thing #DawnOfJustice was made for fans and not critics. These are usually the good ones. Can't wait to see it."

I hope Frank liked the movie. I suspect he was part of the opening weekend's overwhelmingly male demographic — 66 per cent of the audience were male, 63 per cent between the ages of 18 and 34 — who flocked to the film. Also, his twitter cover page shows Superman shooting lasers from his eyes at Batman. I imagine if he could find a picture of Supes blasting a critic he would have used that one instead.

Superhero movies tend to accentuate the divide between critics and fans and rarely has the gap been wider and deeper than it is in the reaction to Batman v Superman.

The thing is, there shouldn't be a divide between professional moviegoers and fans. It's not Criticman v Fandom or Us v Them. We share a love of story, characters and images on screen. We may express our opinions differently, but as Devin Faraci pointed out recently, film critics are film critics because they are passionate about movies. Take Movies.com writer John Gholson for instance. In response to the blow back his negative review of the film received he tweeted, "If you think "I wanted to hate" BVS, you're out of your mind and the reason I'm still upset days later is because I wanted to LOVE it."

For sure there are critics who automatically dismiss superhero movies, or romantic comedies, or whatever your favourite genre. But no one forces you to read them. Choose your favourite film critic like you would a friend, someone who shares your enthusiasms, or challenges them, or whatever makes you happy.

The point is no one is holding Batman's grapple gun to your head making you read bad reviews of your fan favourites.

Better yet, take musician and social activist Jello Biafra's advice. "Don't hate the media," he said, "become the media." It's never been easier to express yourself publicly, whether it's on your own blog or social media but here's a pro tip: go see the movie before sharing your thoughts.

Not that reviews or blogs were going to make a great deal of difference to Batman v Superman's box office fate. Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst at comScore nailed it when he said, "Reviews don't matter. The Batsuit and Superman's cape are made of Teflon." The movie was review proof as evidenced by its 29 per cent Tomatometer score compared to its massive $166.1 million North American take.

FILM BRIEFS

Keanu Reeves, Lily Collins star in film about anorexia

American actor Keanu Reeves has been cast opposite Lily Collins (Abduction) in director Marti Noxon's upcoming film To the Bone, according to Variety.

To the Bone will be a dark comedy about anorexia. Keanu Reeves will play the role of a doctor helping Collins' character to overcome the disorder.

To the Bone will be produced by Julie Lynn and Bonnie Curtis from Mockingbird Pictures, as well as Karina Miller through her Sparkhouse Media company.

AFP

Julia Roberts to star in Fool Me Once

Oscar winning actress Julia Roberts will star in and produce the upcoming film Fool Me Once, reports Deadline Hollywood. The movie is an adaptation of the newly published thriller by Harlan Coben.

The story follows Maya (played by Roberts), a pilot who has recently returned from war. She sees her two-year-old daughter playing with Maya's husband on her nannycam. However, he was murdered two weeks earlier.

Julia Roberts will produce the film with her partners Lisa Gillan and Marisa Yeres Gill through their Red Om Films banner.

AFP

THE TV DINNER JESSICA ALLEN

Make no mistake: Harrison wasn't simply a gruff glutton — although he did suffer from gout, and he sure did love to drink

I was going to write about why you should go see The Lobster, a beautifully odd film that has a 92 per cent score on Rotten Tomatoes, instead of Batman v. Superman, which brought in $424.1 million internationally last weekend despite its dismal 29 per cent rating.

But I'm not in the mood to be patronizing, at least not today, because Jim Harrison has passed away. He wrote poetry, fiction, and nonfiction, the latter of which has meant a great deal to me.

You might know Harrison as the author of Legends of the Fall, a novella he wrote in 1979 that was adapted into a Hollywood film starring Brad Pitt and Anthony Hopkins in 1994.

But "Mr. Harrison was also known for his essays on food," the New York Times wrote on Sunday of the 78-year-old who died on Saturday. "He was perhaps the leading exponent of the small sub-genre in which shotguns and shoe leather play a far greater role than balsamic reduction."

Make no mistake: Harrison wasn't simply a gruff glutton — although he did suffer from gout, and he sure did love to drink: his definition of a glass of wine with dinner meant a 16-ounce pour.

Harrison was a true Epicurean, where "a simple brunch of leftovers" might include "a pasta made from Swiss chard, fresh tomatoes, and copious garlic, and a duck leg and thigh."

Existentialism, after all, requires a healthy appetite.

"I get real tired and hungry trying to figure out the nature of existence, the nature of nature, and the apparent stillness at the heart of being," he wrote.

I fell hard for the way Harrison described living — in between stuffing truffles into a woodcock he'd shot and dinners with Jack Nicholson or Orson Welles — in his nonfiction, which has been called misogynistic.

But discoursing on nature, sex, art, food, death and the hows and whys behind why the hell we're here, transcends gender, if you ask me.

THE MOVIE: Legends of the Fall

THE MEAL: Bone-in cooked ham

He did this often during hunting expeditions at his cabin in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, where he'd prepare both simple and lavish meals with his best friends, Montana-based painter Russell Chatham (Nicholson collects his art) and the Frenchman Guy de la Valdene. What I would've done to have pulled up a chair to that table.

The cabin is also where Harrison, whose wife of 55 years, Linda, passed away in October, sought solitude during depressive bouts. He was like a modern-day Thoreau, whom he quoted often — along with references to Buddha, Rilke, and Chinese poets — in the way he chronicled his observations of nature, which was never convoluted.

Mostly, he was in awe of it: the small feeling you get under a night sky, thick with dark and stars.

And then there was food: "On my deathbed I will not care how I looked in the mirror, or to others, for that matter," he wrote 25 years ago in an essay called One Foot in the Grave, "but I will rehearse with pleasure the tablespoon dipping inaudibly into the kilo of beluga."

I can't afford caviar but I did have a bone-in cooked ham, which I glazed with a slick paste of apricot preserves, Dijon mustard and thyme, and served alongside scalloped potatoes and a simple cabbage salad.

We watched Legends of the Fall and argued over who'd seen it more times. It sure is clunkier than I remember.

But that wasn't Harrison's fault.

(And let's not blame Brad.)

I cried all the same.

The faith and fear of being a parent

MIDNIGHT SPECIAL

Jeff Nichols talks anxiety, ambivalence in sci-fi road film

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

Joel Edgerton, Michael Shannon, Jaeden Lieberher and Kirsten Dunst in Midnight Special. HANDOUT

In the films Take Shelter and Mud, director Jeff Nichols explored themes of social anxiety caused by fear of the unknown.

When I suggest that his new movie, Midnight Special — a sci-fi road film about a father and a son with special powers — continues that examination, he agrees, but only to a point.

"I certainly think you could make that statement and it would be fair," he says, "but it doesn't exactly line up with what I was thinking.

"I was thinking about what it is to be a parent. I think being a parent is to have faith in the unknown.

"You don't know what your children are going to grow up to be. You don't know what's going to happen to them. You don't know if they are going to make it all the way.

"You have to have faith in who they can be, who they are developing into. Who they are currently. I think that is what parenthood is and I think that is why there is so much fear and anxiety that comes from being a parent."

Nichols says he originally came up with the idea for a "sci-fi government chase film" but adds, "That could be really silly, so I think it is up to me as a filmmaker to apply these kind of personal feelings I have and my relationships to the locations and to the world at large to try to ground this film and give it some kind of actual purpose."

To complete the picture, Nichols cast Michael Shannon as the father. A frequent collaborator, Shannon has starred in all of Nichols' films, including the upcoming Loving.

"I think he makes me a better writer, especially in a film like Midnight Special where I'm trying to reduce the need for backstory to be delivered through monologues.

"When you have a person like Mike, he fills all the spaces between the lines with all that subtext.

"He carries it on his face, in his countenance. He is the complete story and he doesn't even have to say a word."

Midnight Special is the extraordinary kind of sci-fi movie that teases out the information bit by bit.

We learn enough to stay involved and are treated to several spectacular and exciting scenes along the way, but when it comes time to put a period on the story, Nichols instead uses an ellipsis in a metaphysical ending that will mean different things to different people.

It owes a nod to his old hero Stephen Spielberg but feels distinctly like a Jeff Nichols film.

"If you look at ET and the bicycle flying and all these other moments that are classic moments in Spielberg films, they are wonderful. I don't do that.

"For better and for worse, I don't do that. Maybe it's because I live in the modern age and am a bit more of a pessimist.

"I don't consider myself a cynic. I like films that ultimately are hopeful, but there is a different kind of conclusion in my films than his films.

"I think my films point toward hope but don't fully embrace it. I think that is the difference.

"It could also be the difference between a blockbuster and whatever this is going to be, but that is who I am as a person."

> **I think my films point toward hope but don't fully embrace it.**
> Jeff Nichols

Antony Starr as Lucas Hood in Banshee. HANDOUT

Banshee refuses to skimp on sex

TELEVISION

One-of-a-kind HBO series is back for its final season

There is no shortage of TV series that aspire to be more than they are — True Detective, Season 2, for example — but other series live a more honest, fuller life in their own skin. And three seasons into its run, Cinemax/HBO's Banshee makes clear it's a production that falls into the latter category.

Bonkers where most other action/dramas strive for authenticity, and underscored with bold colours where many series live for greys, Banshee isn't perfect, but here's what it is: engrossing and creative, with a zombie's insatiable bloodlust and a vigilante's steely purpose.

If you're a liberal-helpings-of-gore aficionado and can suspend reality easily and often, you'll want to watch this show, especially with news its deliciously over-the-top third season will be released April 5 on Blu-ray, and its fourth and final season kicks off April 1 on HBO Canada.

There's really nothing like it in serialized TV and you'll be surprised how much you enjoy a product that feels like it hijacked its way out of Ronald Reagan first-term-as-president America and settled in nicely in the high-definition age.

The premise of the show is simple enough (and here's your official spoiler alert): An ex-convict (Antony Starr) on the run from a Mafia boss for whom he once worked assumes the identity of Lucas Hood, a newly appointed sheriff in small-town Pennsylvania, but there are few tropes to be found in the 30 episodes that have aired.

For example: Through three seasons, Banshee's cast of characters has included:

- A love interest (Ivana Milicevic) and former partner of Hood's who was a jewel thief with mob ties before she assumed a new identity to live a domesticated life as a mother of two and a real estate agent.
- A transvestite computer hacker (Hoon Lee)
- A vicious businessman (Ulrich Thomsen) shunned by the Amish community in which he was raised
- A seething man-mountain (Geno Segers) and leader of a native American tribal gang named The Redbones
- A Ukrainian gangster kingpin (Ben Cross)
- A former neo-Nazi skinhead-turned deputy sheriff (Tom Pelphrey)

And if you thought those character descriptions were colourful, get a load of the names of Banshee's characters: Sugar Bates; Brock Lotus; Anastasia Rabitov; Clay Burton; Kai Proctor; Chayton Littlestone.

You'd think we were talking about roles from the Team America: World Police movie, but somehow Banshee makes them work.

Maybe that's because the fight scenes — which are damned near feral and look as painful as any UFC slugfest — add a grit and gravitas to the mix. Or maybe it's because co-creators Jonathan Tropper and David Schickler joyfully dive headfirst into the pulpy world of the show, and bearhug every last drop of emotion and tension out of it.

Whatever the case, the end result feels like the best kind of noir-ish B-movie and you'll be hard-pressed to not binge your way through it until you're like the rest of us, waiting for the final eight episodes of Season 4 to bring the tale to what undoubtedly will be a deliriously savage conclusion.

Banshee doesn't skimp on the gratuitous sex scenes that have become a staple of most cable programming these days, but there's a feminist element to the series that shouldn't be overlooked.

Milicevic's character is as ferocious as any other on the show and, as a rebellious Amish teenager, Lili Simmons (True Detective, Hawaii Five-0) projects the same guile and obsession with power we see from the male cast members.

Midway through the third season of the show, Hood is told that everything he touches turns to blood. There isn't a better overall theme for Banshee; it's an exercise in destruction and chaos, with a few pit stops built in for characters to tend to their wounds.

But it's a testament to the craftsmanship of the showrunners that the series' cult following — who like to call themselves Fanshees — have developed the same craving for pain, suffering and bug-eyed, fangs-out retribution that they're watching onscreen.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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McDermott 'fearless' for new show

TELEVISION

Actor says he is in a 'great place' as series set to debut

The last time viewers saw Dean McDermott on the small screen he was at one of the lowest points of his life.

On one hand he had been juggling hosting duties on Chopped Canada for two seasons. On the other he was baring his soul on reality series True Tori, attempting to reconcile his marriage to Tori Spelling following a public affair, and dealing with depression and suicidal thoughts.

As he debuts this Friday in Super Channel's horror series Slasher, he's very much a reassembled man.

"I'm in a really great place now with my sobriety and my headspace and my depression, and I just feel great and I feel ready," he says. "I just felt more open as an actor and as a person to sort of try new things and be fearless. I guess it's because I'd been through so much.

"I'd been dragged through the mud, I'd hit bottom. I was in a horrible place personally and so now being on set it was, I've been to hell and back, so nothing really throws me off my game now."

On Slasher, McDermott plays police chief Iain Vaughn, a seasoned vet who is none too pleased when the child of a couple brutally murdered in their home on Halloween returns to town decades later with her husband in tow. Naturally, it doesn't take long for gruesome killings to resume, despite the original killer now being locked safely away.

"I'm an actor first and foremost, that's what I was for 20 years before I came to L.A. Then the reality thing just kind of fell in my lap and it was fun to run with for a while until it wasn't," McDermott explains. "I was so happy and blessed and grateful for the role on Slasher because it was time for me to get back to my first love of acting in scripted television."

As McDermott gears up for the Canadian premiere of the eight-episode series, he wants Canadians to know that leaving Chopped Canada when it was renewed for a third season wasn't by choice. Although he's firm that Shaw Media supported him and stuck by him after the first season when news of his affair broke and True Tori aired, they still parted ways on a sour note.

"(Shaw) was just like, 'It's a network choice,' to later find out that it was financial. They launched the show on my back and then got a cheaper host (former Bachelor Canada Brad Smith)," McDermott says.

"It really p—d me off because I love that show . . . it left a bad tasted in my mouth when they approached me and told me that. If it was financial, talk to me about it. I would have taken a pay cut." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

THE OTHER CHARACTERS

Sarah Bennett (Katie McGrath)
She was cut out of her mother's womb as a baby, but that isn't stopping her from returning to her hometown and moving back into the house where her parents were brutally murdered decades ago.

Dylan Bennett (Brandon Jay McLaren)
As the paper's new editor in chief, Dylan has access to all sorts of information. Information that will hopefully help his wife Sarah finally make peace with her horrifying past.

Cam Henry (Steve Byers)
As one of Sarah's childhood friends and potential adult crush, this officer is there as a moral support for his old bestie, but possibly something more as well.

Heather Peterson (Erin Karpluk)
The Being Erica and Rookie Blue star shows an entirely new side of herself in this deranged role, as a mentally unstable woman who may not be as unhinged as she first appears.

Brenda Merritt (Wendy Crewson)
As Sarah's grandmother, Brenda has been largely responsible for making sure her granddaughter grew up as happily as possible. But as the truth begins to emerge, there may be some questions even she refuses to answer.

Dean McDermott plays police chief Iain Vaughan in the new horror series Slasher. HANDOUT

Manage your spring allergy symptoms

We all look forward to the first signs of spring. Unfortunately for many Canadians, the sniffling, sneezing and watery eyes of annoying spring allergies can overshadow the enjoyment of the season.

The big trigger is pollen. As plants bloom and trees come to life, pollen is released into the air. We breathe in the pollen and our immune systems respond by sending antibodies to attack the allergens. This causes a release of chemicals called histamines into the blood, setting off allergic symptoms. Typically, the hotter and drier the weather, the more pollen is released. When wind picks up, pollen counts are higher because the wind carries it further. When it rains, the counts are lower as the water washes pollen away.

One way to help manage allergy symptoms is with over-the-counter remedies designed to reduce symptoms. Products fall into these general categories:

Antihistamines
These help to temporarily reduce sneezing, runny nose and itching by lowering the histamines your body produces. There are various formulations that do this: desloratadine (e.g., Aerius), loratadine (e.g., Claratin), cetirizine (e.g., Reactine) and sedatives (e.g., Benadryl). You may have to try different formulations to find the one that works best for you, but always make sure to read and follow the label.

YOUR ALLERGY ACTION PLAN

- Stay inside when pollen counts are highest: early in the day and when the weather is dry and windy.
- Keep doors and windows shut and regularly vacuum and dust your home.
- Use high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters if your home has forced-air heating or air conditioning.
- Wash your clothes and hair after you've spent time outside.
- Leave the lawn mowing and weeding to someone else in your family.

ISTOCK

Nasal sprays
These can help clear nasal passages. Some are decongestants, shrinking the blood vessels in the nasal passages to help relieve congestion for a few days only. As an alternative, a saline spray used to rinse and moisturize your nasal passages is a good choice (e.g., Hydrasense).

Anti-itch creams
Those with antihistamines (e.g., Benadryl) can help relieve itchy skin due to allergies.

Eye drops
Some eye drops contain an antihistamine that helps relieve itchy, watery eyes and a decongestant that can help relieve redness. Decongestants should not be used for more than a few days.

The medications mentioned in this article may not be right for you. Always read and follow the label before using and make sure to consult your health-care professional or your local Shoppers Drug Mart pharmacist to find the best solution for you.

Individual results may vary. This information is provided for education information purposes only. It is not designed or intended to constitute medical advice or to be used for diagnosis or to replace your Doctor. Consult your Pharmacist or Doctor to determine the appropriateness of the information for your specific situation.

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London takes best destination in TripAdvisor Travellers' Choice Awards

Kansas City, Kansas City here I come

MUSIC

Good music awaits in this city known for jazz and blues

Kansas City has a wide-open selection of bars to help the business traveller shake off that last meeting and down beverages poured from full-size bottles not found in the mini-bar.

There are also loads of taverns that aim to sully your gin and quiet with music — DJs, karaoke, a guy on a guitar.

And then there is the Blue Room, where patrons head when the need for good music pushes aside those lower-brain urges. You don't go to the Blue Room just to have a drink, chit chat or get rid of another night.

You go to the Blue Room to listen, and not in a background-fill-in-the-gaps kind of way, but in a "Hey — pay attention!" kind of way.

The Blue Room is a small two-tiered space adjoining Kansas City's American Jazz Museum in the Historic 18th & Vine Jazz District, a few miles from the hotels and convention locales of Crown Center, downtown and the Country Club Plaza. It's dark, the bar is stocked, the tables small.

On a recent Friday night, by 8:40 p.m., apart from a couple bar stools, the place was standing-room-only packed. The draw that night was the James Ward Band, a six-piece contemporary jazz group that hushed the crowd and set one gentleman in an oversized sport coat dancing alone in front of the bar.

Most everyone else sat quietly, drinks before them, heads facing forward, soaking it in. A few raised their voices and clinked glasses during the set, but they were a minority.

The Blue Room "is a working jazz club exhibit" that hosts veteran musicians and new bands, locals and the internationally known, said Christopher Burnett, marketing and communications manager for the American Jazz Museum. Ida McBeth makes regular appearances.

It's open Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings, with the last Monday of the month usually for big bands, and the last Thursday for Latin Jazz and Salsa. "We've got some pretty good Latin bands here in Kansas City, and they pack the place," Burnett said. "And, we have about a dozen big bands in Kansas City that are off the chain."

The Blue Room also holds a free jam session on Monday evenings where musicians of all skill levels can sit in with veterans. For the next trip to Kansas City, pack your sax.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IF YOU GO

The Blue Room: 1616 E. 18th St., Kansas City, Missouri; club.americanjazzmuseum.org. Open Mondays and Thursday, 5 p.m.-11 p.m. (entertainment starts at 7 p.m., admission free); Fridays, 5 p.m.- 1 a.m.; Saturdays, 7 p.m.-1 a.m. (entertainment Friday-Saturday begins 8:30 p.m. with $10 cover unless otherwise noted).

The Blue Room. ASSOCIATED PRESS

Area Museums: The American Jazz Museum and Negro Leagues Baseball Museum are located in the same building as the Blue Room. The museums are open Tuesday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sundays noon-6 p.m.; combined tickets to both museums cost $15, adults, and $8, children 5-12, or for one museum, $10, adults, or $6, children.

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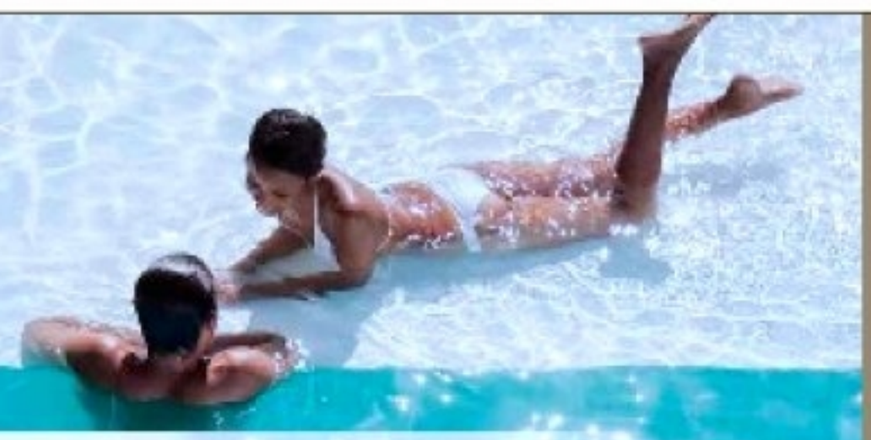

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TRAVEL NOTES A ROMAN TREASURE AND NINJAS

Roman treasure gets first showing

Hidden for decades, one of the world's greatest collections of ancient Roman statues is finally to go on public display. The works are held by the Torlonia family, one of Rome's oldest dynasties. Under the deal, between 60 and 90 of the works will be displayed in Rome in the second half of 2017. The bulk of the collection has spent decades in the basement of a family palace in central Rome after Prince Alessandro Torlonia converted the building into a 90-flat condominium. AFP

Villa Torlonia, where the works were kept. AFP

Japanese region seeks ninjas

Hundreds of aspiring ninjas from abroad have overwhelmed tourism officials in Japan looking to hire six full-time secret assassins, massively outnumbering local applicants. Central Japan's Aichi prefecture is hiring a troupe of ninjas to promote tourism. In an ad published last month, the prefecture said candidates of any nationality were welcome. Weeks later more than 200 applications were sent to the prefecture, with 85 per cent coming from foreigners. AFP

Japan's Aichi prefecture. ISTOCK

The Go Bike Montreal Festival typically brings out 15,000 people for a night ride and 25,000 for the main event.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A festival on bicycles

EXPLORING

See a new side of Montreal in this fest for all types of cyclists

Montreal puts the sizzle on its status as a cycling and cultural beehive with a bike festival running from May 29 to June 5.

It's anchored by a bicycle tour of the city-island that rivals New York's Five Boro Bike Tour cycling extravaganza in size, adds a distinctive French twist and shows Americans how very far their dollar can go in Canada these days.

Tour de l'Ile de Montreal is the iconic event for a bicycle-mad city that Joelle Sevigny of Velo Quebec, the province's bicycle association and festival organizer, calls "little Copenhagen in North America."

The festival is far from little. The Sunday tour on closed-off streets, on June 5, typically draws 25,000 people, and follows a Friday night ride that brings together 15,000 in good weather.

The classic Sunday ride is 50 kilometres with an "express" option for fast cyclists to leave before the mob. Shorter hops are part of the mix, as is a 100-kilometre ride that ventures beyond streets closed to traffic.

Tour la nuit, on the Friday night, takes cyclists 23 kilometres and invariably brings out plenty of bikers and spectators in goofy costumes with some wild homemade illumination on the bikes.

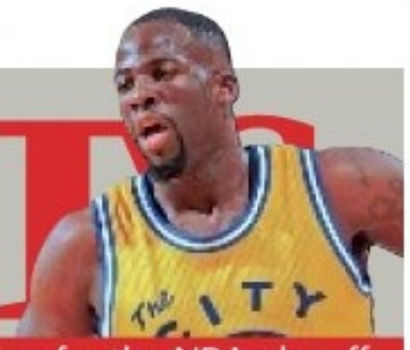
Tour de l'Ile de Montreal began in 1985 with 3,500 people and mushroomed as the cycling ethic took hold.

Cycling is a year-round form of commuting and recreation despite the bitter winters in a province that is home to Route Verte, the vast bike network that made Quebec the world's top cycling destination, according to National Geographic.

The Go Bike Montreal Festival opens May 29 with "metropolitan challenge" rides in the countryside. The main Sunday ride costs $30.50 to $41 for an adult, depending when booked.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

metro SPORTS



"It is something we want to do": Draymond Green whose 68-7 Warriors will push for a record 73 wins instead of resting for the NBA playoffs

Koe says his curlers are better off for experience

SLUGLINE

Calgary-based rink expect the unexpected in Switzerland

Kevin Koe has experienced the highs and lows of competition at the world curling championship.

He won gold at his first appearance in 2010 but struggled in his return four years later. Koe enters the 2016 competition as a favourite to get back on the podium.

Koe and teammates Marc Kennedy, Brent Laing and Ben Hebert are coming off an impressive performance at the Tim Hortons Brier in Ottawa. They beat Brad Gushue of Newfoundland and Labrador in the final for the right to represent Canada in Basel, Switzerland.

"We have high expectations for ourselves as I'm sure every team that represents Canada in curling does," Koe said.

Sweden's Niklas Edin is back to defend the title he won last year in Halifax and 2015 silver medallist Thomas Ulsrud will skip the Norwegian side. Other potential contenders include Scotland's Tom Brewster, Finland's Aku Kauste, American John Shuster and Switzerland's Sven Michel.

> **We worked really hard on making sure we had all aspects of the game covered .**
> Marc Kennedy

Canada will open round-robin play Saturday against Finland at the 9,000-seat St. Jakobshalle. The top four teams will advance to the Page playoffs, with the medal games set for April 10.

This year's 12-team field is rounded out by Denmark's Rasmus Stjerne, Germany's Alexander Baumann, Japan's Yusuke Morozumi, South Korea's Soo Hyuk Kim and Russia's Alexey Stukalskiy.

Koe's rink is loaded with experience. All four players have won world titles before with different teams.

Koe's 2010 victory in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy came with Blake MacDonald, Carter Rycroft and Nolan Thiessen. Simmons replaced MacDonald on the Koe team that settled for a fourth-place result in 2014 at Beijing.

Kennedy and Hebert won gold with John Morris on Kevin Martin's team in 2008 at Grand Forks, N.D. Laing, meanwhile, teamed with Craig Savill, Wayne Middaugh and skip Glenn Howard to win Canada's last gold in 2012 at Basel.

Canada hasn't gone four years without a world men's title since a seven-year drought from 1973-79.

Challenges with the food, hotel and smog in Beijing created distractions for Koe's rink at the 2014 playdowns. He also told his then-teammates before the event that he would be moving on with a new lineup at the end of that season.

"That was tough but I don't look back on it and say that cost us at all," Koe said.

After mixed results in their first campaign together, Koe's team have blossomed this season.

"We've won a Slam, we've won the Canada Cup, we've won a bunch of other events and won a Brier that (had) arguably one of the tougher fields ever," Koe said. "So I think that just shows we've been in good form all year and I think we'd expect to keep playing (well).

"That being said, there's obviously a couple other teams there that have won this event before that'll be tough."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

34

Canada hasn't gone four years without a world men's title since a seven-year drought from 1973-79. It has won gold on 34 occasions since the men's world championship was first held in 1959.

Kevin Koe's Team Canada begins its bid for a world title against Finland on Saturday in Basel, Switzerland.

JUSTIN TANG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Henderson draws hordes

Brooke Henderson had by far the most fans following her first round of the ANA Inspiration on Thursday. The 18-year-old from Smiths Falls, Ont., is getting used to the support.

"It's super cool," Henderson said. "Every round it seems there are more fans and not only just from Canada. Though there is a huge Canadian crowd out here this week."

Henderson opened with a 1-over 73 and was six shots behind leader Ai Miyazato. The former hockey goalie from is making her second start at Mission Hills after tying for 26th in the major championship in 2014.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brooke Henderson

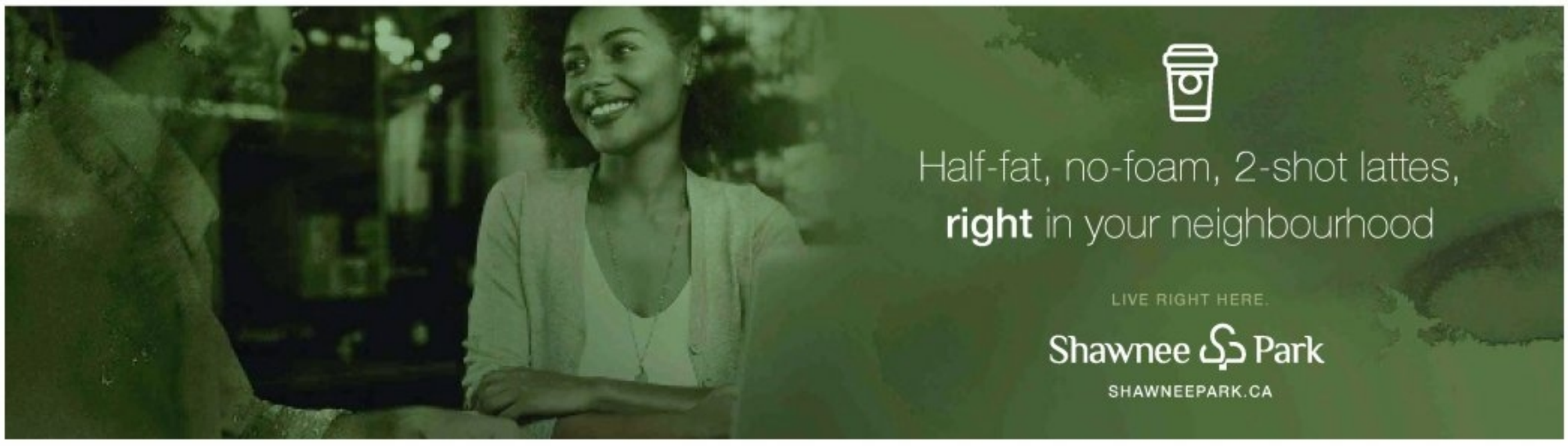
GETTY IMAGES

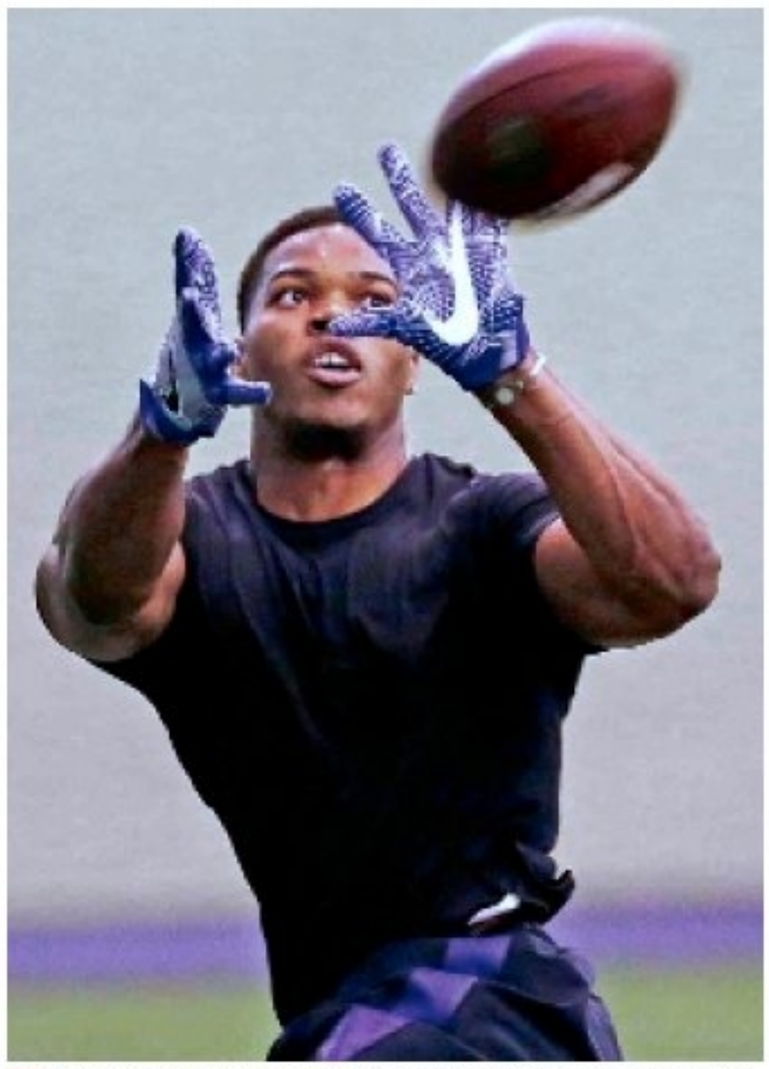
Miller to play through pain

New York Yankees reliever Andrew Miller plans to pitch with a broken wrist in his glove hand. Miller sustained a chip fracture of his right wrist Wednesday when hit by a line drive off the bat of Atlanta's Willians Astudillo.

"I think I can work around it," Miller said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





NFL SEAMLESS IN SEATTLE Dwayne Washington reaches for a pass during the University of Washington's NFL Pro Day on Thursday in Seattle. ELAINE THOMPSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hits a long-term problem

CTE IN FOOTBALL

New study links number of head shots to issues in adulthood

The more hits to the head an amateur football player takes, the greater the risk that he will be depressed, have difficulty making decisions or develop other forms of cognitive impairment as an adult, a preliminary study suggests.

The study by Boston University researchers published in the Journal of Neurotrauma on Thursday is the first of its kind to look at the connection between the cumulative number of impacts sustained from youth football through college and later-in-life mental difficulties, according to Dr. Robert Stern, one of the co-authors.

Stern, of the BU School of Medicine, said the study is "an important first step" to guide future research, but cautioned that it should not be used to influence parenting or policy decisions.

> **It is important in that it starts to answer some questions.**
> Dr. Robert Stern

"This is not meant to be: 'If you get hit a certain number of times, you will have problems.' That's not how this can be interpreted," he said. "It is important in that it starts to answer some questions. But by no means is it ... definitive."

The study looked at 93 former amateur football players and, based on their positions and years of experience, calculated how many head hits they likely sustained over their careers. It found that the risk of later-life cognitive, mood and behavioural impairment increases as the hit count increases.

"Measuring head impact exposure is very difficult," said Yorghos Tripodis, another co-author. "We don't have helmet accelerometers on everybody so we can go back and say, 'How many hits did you have over your lifetime?'"

The study focused on subconcussive blows and not just the ones that are forceful enough to cause concussions. Stern said the focus on concussions has been beneficial, because it has led youth and professional leagues to develop return to play guidelines and other gains in concussion management.

"All those changes have been extremely important," he said. "That said, my strong feeling is that we also have to focus on the hits that don't get diagnosed as concussions. These repetitive subconcussive hits add up tremendously."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GOLF

Hoffman heats up to lead in Houston

Charley Hoffman birdied half the holes on the course Thursday and had just a single bogey to shoot an 8-under-par 64 to take the first-round lead of the Shell Houston Open, putting himself in contention to claim the final spot in next week's Masters.

But the hard work lies ahead for Hoffman. The three-time PGA Tour winner from San Diego hasn't held up well on the weekends this season after giving himself good opportunities to claim titles. Closing 75s in his last two stroke-play tournaments even knocked him out of likely top-10 finishes.

"I've shot 3- or 4-over on the back nine on Sunday when I've been going from winning the golf tournament to 12th or 15th place," Hoffman said. "I've played fairly solidly from the start of the year to now and haven't been missing cuts, but I haven't been able to put four rounds together. Hopefully I can do that this week."

Hoffman birdied the first four holes then added another birdie on No. 8 to break out of what had been a four-way tie for first place with Dustin Johnson, Roberto Castro and Scott Brown. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Jones-Cormier to go ahead

Former UFC light heavyweight champion Jon "Bones" Jones will have to take anger management and driver-improvement classes for violating probation. His latest troubles came after being stopped last week for allegedly drag racing in downtown Albuquerque, not far from his gym. The UFC said Jones will still headline UFC 197 on April 23 in Las Vegas when he fights light heavyweight champion Daniel Cormier. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LeBron up to 12th all-time

LeBron James scored 24 points to move into 12th place on the NBA's career scoring list and the Cleveland Cavaliers defeated the Brooklyn Nets 107-87 on Thursday night.

James passed Dominique Wilkins with a three-point play in the first quarter. The four-time MVP has 26,689 career points. Kevin Love added 19 for Cleveland, which leads Toronto by 2-1/2 games for the top seed in the Eastern Conference. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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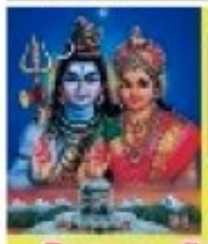

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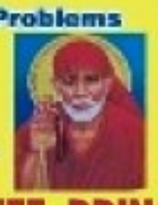

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4. 160 Acres - 5;1;21;18;NW
5. 156 Acres - 5;1;21;18;SE
6. 160 Acres - 5;1;21;17;NW
7. 160 Acres - 5;1;21;17;NE
8. 155.70 Acres - 5;1;21;7;NE
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Anyone interested in submitting an offer to purchase any or all of the lands described above should contact Lexy R. Wong as set out below to obtain an offer package which will contain additional information about the lands and the terms and conditions which the Estate may consider when reviewing the offers.

All offers shall be submitted in writing in the form provided in the offer package and delivered no later than 12:00 p.m. MST (noon) on April 18, 2016 to the following:

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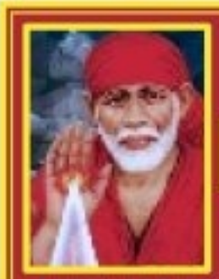

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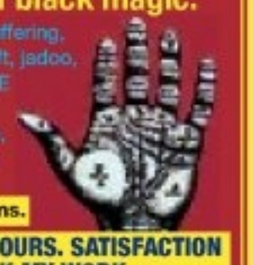

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PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

This recipe will be your newest obsession for so many reasons (easy, fast, inexpensive) but the main reason we make it all time is because it's just so darn delicious.

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Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 8 hours

Ingredients
- 6 boneless, skinless chicken thighs
- 1 1/2 cups prepared pico de gallo or salsa
- 1/4 cup fresh lime juice (about 1 1/2 limes)
- 2 teaspoons cumin seeds, lightly toasted
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro
- 12 taco shells (crisp or soft/flour or corn)

Directions

1. Place chicken, pico de gallo or salsa, lime juice, cumin seeds and garlic in a slow cooker and stir to combine. Cover and cook on low for 6 hours. (You can also cook on high for 3 hours.)

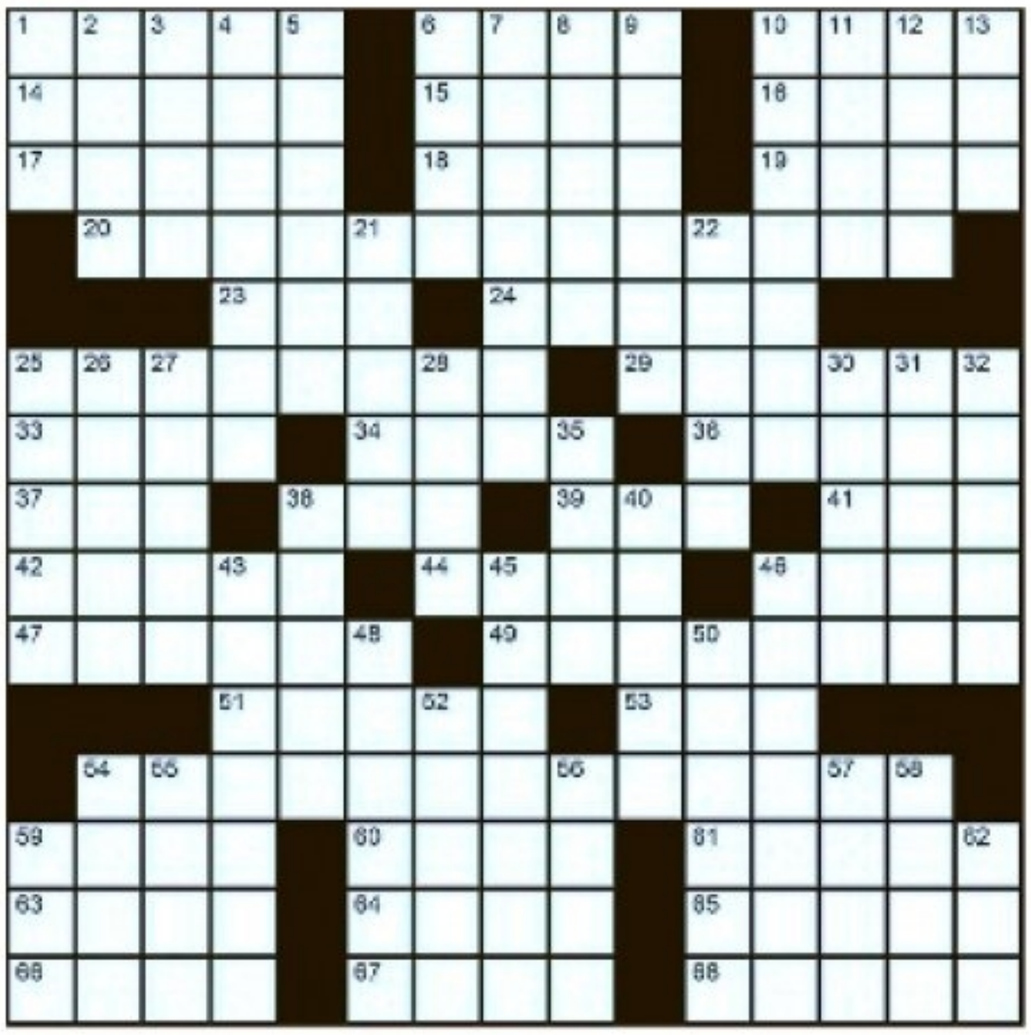
2. Allow to cool a bit. Scoop the chicken out with a big slotted spoon and place it in a large serving bowl. Use two forks to pull the meat apart. The chicken will shred easily. Stir in some cooking juice from the pot and top with the cilantro.

3. Place the shredded chicken, your taco shells and desired fixings on the table and let everyone put together their perfect taco.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Soooo 2015
6. PEI export, cutely
10. Superior at a French monastery
14. Tropical greeting
15. Other
16. Extra
17. Get rid of mist
18. German industrial region
19. Adjective's follower
20. Eugene Levy's anchorman character on "SCTV": 2 wds.
23. "__ for two and me for..."
24. Botanical casings
25. Bedding
29. Earthquakes
33. Genesis brother
34. Call for
36. Toronto __ Centre
37. Poultry product
38. Beaufort __
39. Un-new
41. Historic time
42. Jacket sported by a '60s rocker
44. Former currency in Italy
46. Apex
47. Bury
49. The despairing masses in Victor Hugo's Les Miserables
51. Perhaps
53. Ms. Jillian
54. Oh, God! Jim Carrey comedy of 2003: 2 wds.
59. Umpire's call about a ball!
60. Hillside
61. Sophia of 2009's "Nine"
63. In __ of (Replacing)
64. Cravings
65. Upper crust
66. Alberta town
67. Scandinavian story
68. Resign

DOWN
1. Suit shoulder insert
2. Helm position
3. TV-watcher's spot
4. Abbreviate
5. Bird of Jove's baby
6. Follower of 'Que' twice, in song
7. Feathering
8. Movies attendant
9. Skin layer
10. John Doe's memory loss
11. Barbarian
12. Very dry, as per champagne
13. 'Velvet' suffix
21. "The __ Mutiny" (1954)
22. Rolling Stones album of 1969: 'Let It __'
25. Panorama
26. Tom __ (Robert Duvall's character in 'Godfather' movies)
27. After __ (Mints)
28. Oscar-winner Patricia
30. "__ Magnolias" (1989)
31. The __ of the story...
32. Cobra, for one
35. "__ the Explorer"
38. Shrub variety
40. Hawaiian-style veranda
43. Twin brother of Remus in ancient Roman mythology
45. Reykjavik's realm
46. Puny puncture
48. "Ta ta!": 2 wds.
50. Fished
52. Divulged
54. Swelter
55. Bemoaned
56. Raised flatland
57. Clip
58. Fabled snow creature
59. Andy Capp's wife
62. Clear

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
This is a good day to count your blessings, and one of the biggest blessings for Aries this year is that you can improve your job. You also can improve your health.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
This year, more than a decade in the past and a decadent future, you have the best chance to enjoy vacations — a major vacation or a series of little getaways.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
This is an excellent year to benefit from real-estate deals. You will improve your home life and all your family relationships.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
A positive state of mind is the secret of happiness. And this is what you have in spades this year. It's easy to be optimistic!

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You can earn more money this year, which is good news for your sign — you like to spend big. You'll be laughing all the way to the bank.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
With lucky Jupiter in your sign now, life couldn't be better. Of course, nothing is perfect, because it never is. But you have the advantage now over all the other signs.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Your spiritual life will be more important now for a number of reasons. Welcome this opportunity to be introspective and come to terms with what really matters in life.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
This is such a popular year for you! Enjoy meeting new friends. And enjoy joining clubs, groups and organizations. Remember: Your relations with others will benefit you this year.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
This is the perfect year to put your name up in lights. It's easy to impress others, because they see you in such positive terms. (Milk this for all it's worth

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Grab every opportunity to travel, because you want to expand your horizons this year. This is also a good year for publishing, the media and higher education.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Gifts, goodies and the wealth of others will benefit you this year. Keep your pockets open and enjoy this advantage.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
This is a wonderful year for relationships for you. In fact, this is the best year in over a decade for Pisces people to get married. Oh my.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

5						3		6
			7		9			
1				2				
	2						9	
		9		5		1		
	3						5	
				1				2
			6		4			
4		7						3

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STAND OUT FROM THE CROWD

You have a choice to either distinguish yourself from or blend with the crowd. Blending with the crowd connotes a compromise and obscurity to your light whereas, "No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house." *(Matthew 5:15NLT)*. You can stand out in your work place by offering exceptional services.

For prayers and counseling call the pastor at 403.970.5000

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Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

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2	7	9	6	1	8	4	3	5
5	3	1	7	4	9	2	6	8
4	6	8	3	2	5	1	7	9
1	4	6	2	9	3	5	8	7
3	5	2	1	8	7	9	4	6
8	9	7	5	6	4	3	1	2
6	2	4	8	5	1	7	9	3
9	8	3	4	7	2	6	5	1
7	1	5	9	3	6	8	2	4

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